

Egypt hopes for early Taba solution

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt said Saturday it wants to speed up talks with Israel on settlement of a border dispute but made clear it was not prepared to make concessions to resolve outstanding differences. A statement by a Foreign Ministry official to reporters in effect urged Israel to change its position. The official, who spoke on condition he not be further identified, said Egypt hopes the talks on Taba, a one-square-kilometre beach area in Sinai, can be wrapped up in a further two rounds of talks. Five rounds have been held since Israel agreed last January to Egypt's demand that the dispute be submitted to international arbitration. Israel proposed, however, that arbitration be coupled in its early stages with an effort at mediating the dispute over Taba, presently controlled by the Jewish state and claimed by Egypt.

Jordan Times

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Iraq, Iran report raids on facilities

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Saturday its planes bombed an Iranian power plant northeast of Ahvaz, while Iran said its bombers hit a steel plant at Al Amarah. The raid on the steel plant inflicted "appreciable damage" said Iran's official news agency, IRNA. But Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as denying that a steel mill was hit. "The whole world knows there are no steel mills in Al Amarah," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the radio. The Iraqi News Agency said three civilians were wounded during an Iranian air raid in the Missan governorate of southern Iraq, where Al Amarah is located. The Iraqi agency added that Iraqi planes early on Saturday bombed an electric power station northeast of the Iranian city of Ahvaz, in Iran's southern Khuzistan province, across the border from Missan.

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King sends good wishes to Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Pakistani President Muhammad Zia ul Haq on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day. The cable conveyed the King's greetings to President Zia and wished the Pakistani people further prosperity and progress. The cable said the King was looking forward to continued brotherly relations between Jordan and Pakistan and cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of the two peoples and the Islamic Nation.

IRA suspect rearrested after chase

DUBLIN (AP) — A woman accused of three Irish Republican Army (IRA) killings in London was freed by a Dublin court on Saturday, then rearrested after a chase with police during which shots were fired. Evelyn Glenholmes, 29, was captured as she tried to dash into a department store after the high-speed chase through downtown Dublin. Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said a pursuing policeman fired up to nine shots. No one was wounded.

Pakistan, U.S. discuss arms, aid

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani and United States officials resumed talks on Saturday on a new arms and aid deal for Islamabad in the wake of protests against U.S. influence in the country. No details were immediately available about the talks on a deal to replace a five-year package expiring in 1987. The delegations, led by Pakistani Finance Minister Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo and U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Security Assistance William Schneider, will meet again on Monday, the official AFP news agency reported.

China: No monitoring accord with U.S.

PEKING (AP) — The Foreign Ministry on Saturday denied a report that Peking was considering a U.S. proposal to install seismic equipment in China for the monitoring of Soviet underground nuclear tests. "This report is groundless," a ministry statement said. However, U.S. embassy officials in Peking on Friday confirmed the March 19 report in the Washington Post which said the United States is conducting sensitive negotiations with Peking on the seismic installation. The facility would enhance U.S. monitoring capability, which now relies largely on a seismic centre built in Norway last year.

Strauss heads for Syria

MUNICH (AP) — Bavarian State Governor Franz Josef Strauss flew to Syria on Saturday at the invitation of President Hafez al-Assad, a spokesman said. Mr. Strauss will hold talks with Syrian officials until Monday, said the spokesman. Mr. Strauss, an influential conservative and former West German defence minister, is well-travelled and often received by government officials abroad although he is not a minister in the current national government in Bonn.

Jordan pays tribute to IDB, urges aid to people under occupation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Saturday paid tribute to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for helping the Kingdom to carry out its development projects over the past decade and praised the bank's sound policies of providing aid to Islamic nations enabling them to implement social and economic schemes.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein at the opening session of the 10th annual conference of the IDB, also urged the bank to provide assistance to the Arab people of Palestine now suffering under Israeli occupation and enable them to remain steadfast against Israel's arbitrary actions and policies aimed at evicting them from their homeland. The Crown Prince said the Israeli occupation authorities were seeking to link the economy of the occupied territories with that of Israel, thereby making the Palestinians living under occupation dependent on the Israeli economy. Such a link, the Crown Prince said, was aimed at depriving the Palestinian people of their economic independence and forcing them to abandon their homeland in the face of adverse economic conditions.

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's address at the opening session of the IDB meeting:

You are welcome to Jordan, not far away from Al Aqsa Mosque now captive under Israel, which continues to pose a grave challenge to the Arab and Islamic nations. The Israelis who now occupy the Holy City of Jerusalem and Palestine continue their drive to remove all Arab and Islamic cultural and historical character of the occupied territories and aggression in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied Arab lands. It is an official Israeli policy to build settlements on Arab land and exercise economic pressure on the Arab people in Palestine depriving the Arab population of natural resources and livelihoods and serving as a lever to force

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King emphasises need for enhanced Islamic cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has reiterated the importance of bolstering cooperation among Islamic nations to help them overcome their economic difficulties.

The King was speaking at a meeting in the Royal Court with Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

At the meeting, the King and Mr. Pirzadeh discussed the current situation in the Islamic World and the challenges which the Arab and Islamic nations are facing.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Pirzadeh is here to attend the 10th conference of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the financial wing of the OIC. Finance ministers from 44 Islamic states are attending the conference.

Later, King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sa'id Ahmad Sa'id, minister of finance in the Comoros Islands. The minister conveyed to the King a message from Comoros President Ahmad Abdoul Rahman. The minister praised Jordan's policies towards achieving a just and durable Middle East peace.

In other meetings on Saturday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received Sheikh Mohammad Abul Khail, Saudi minister of finance and national economy. Attending the meeting were Acting Finance Minister Hisham Al Khatib and the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

Mr. Rifai also received Sheikh Ahmad Hamid Al Tayer, minister of state for finance and industry affairs of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The meeting was attended by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an and the UAE ambassador to Jordan.

The prime minister also held talks with the Turkish minister of state for prime ministry affairs who conveyed to him a verbal message from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. Present at the meeting was the Turkish ambassador to Jordan.

Delegates stress need to maintain IDB role in Islamic development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 44-member Islamic Development Bank (IDB) opened its 10th annual conference here on Saturday after an inaugural speech by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. At the meeting got underway speeches of various delegates attending the conference focused on the importance of maintaining the bank's role as a major institution contributing to the development and economic growth of Islamic countries.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources and Acting Minister of Finance Hisham Al Khatib referred to the short period since the IDB was established and compared Jordan's growth with the rest of the Islamic World. Jordan achieved an 11 per cent annual growth at current prices and this achievement, he said, was due to the free enterprise economy and open markets.

The minister referred to three elements in the Islamic World's development touching on internal development, relations among Islamic countries and an outlook towards the future.

The Islamic World's population is estimated at 800 million, a little less than one fifth of the total world population, half of whom are illiterate and their total national revenues amount to \$650 million, per capita income not exceeding \$800 a year, the minister pointed out. He said the total Islamic world's revenues do not exceed that of France of \$55 million per year, less than that of West Germany of 60 million, and does not exceed that of Japan of 120 million inhabitants.

These figures, he said, reflect the existence of a big gap between the economy of the Islamic Nation

and that of the modern and developed world. Among the main reasons for backwardness, the minister said, is the lack of political stability which is essential for economic stability and this tends to weaken creativity and proper management of resources and projects.

Also, he said, lack of proper financing of projects has its negative effect on economic development. Dr. Khatib voiced regret over the lack of information exchange among Islamic countries and said that the IDB should take a step in this direction and should form a link connecting Islamic nations in terms of trade and economic development.

The IDB, he said, has however offered long-term loans to finance trade and was seeking to establish

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Chirac cabinet to seek vote of confidence

PARIS (AP) — France's new conservative government held its first cabinet meeting on Saturday, and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said he would demand a vote of confidence at the opening parliamentary session April 2.

During the 25-minute meeting, which brought Socialist President Francois Mitterrand face-to-face with 39 political adversaries, Mr. Chirac noted that his priorities were jobs and security, according to top Chirac aide Maurice Ulrich.

A new outbreak of bombings since Mr. Chirac was appointed on Thursday has returned the security issue to the forefront.

Mr. Chirac told the cabinet meeting he would address the National Assembly, France's parliament, then demand a vote of confidence, Ulrich said.

Mr. Chirac's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic party (RPR), the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF) and several smaller parties gained 290 seats in the 577-seat assembly in March 16 legislative elections.

The cabinet meeting was preceded by a meeting of Mr. Chirac and his ministers and the Hotel Matignon, the premier's official residence, for what the French press called a "dress rehearsal" for the formal meeting at the presidential Elysee Palace.

In a skirting of tradition, the chief of state and members of the government did not pose for the traditional "family" portrait, and photographers snapped only informal shots as they filed out.

And in another departure, Ulrich said official accounts of cabinet sessions would emanate directly from the Matignon rather than the Elysee and be delivered by a Chirac aide. Traditionally, official accounts of cabinet meetings are presented by a member of the government in the presence of an Elysee aide.

Mr. Chirac had set economic and voting reforms as his priorities. But a bombing on the Champs Elysees killed two people and wounded 28 as Mr. Chirac made his first formal speech Thursday.

Reuter adds: Police said on Saturday that one of two men killed in Thursday's bomb attack probably planted the explosives himself.

The victim was a Lebanese friend of a prisoner whose release from a French jail has been demanded by a group which claimed the bombing, France Inter Radio quoted the police as saying.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Saturday addresses the opening session of the 10th annual conference of the Islamic Development Bank (Petra photo)

No more oil market stability at Saudi expense, Abal Khail says

By Salamah B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khail said on Saturday that Saudi Arabia will not make "any more sacrifices" by cutting its oil output in order to prop up world oil prices.

Mr. Abal Khail said Saudi Arabia had "always sought (within OPEC) to restore stability to oil prices at its own expense." "We have learned our lessons. This will not happen again," he told the Jordan Times.

The Saudi minister said the kingdom "has an interest in maintaining stable oil prices at reasonable levels." However, he said that Saudi interests clashed with the interests of other OPEC countries.

He explained that Saudi Arabia, which is estimated to hold 25 per cent of the world's oil reserves,

"will continue to remain an oil exporting country which has interest in stable oil prices. Other countries whose reserves are limited have different interests than ours."

"This stability in prices should not be at our expense. This will not be repeated," he added.

Mr. Abal Khail said current oil prices were "not satisfactory for countries like Saudi Arabia. They (the tumbling prices) are also troublesome for oil importers."

On the impact of oil prices decline on the Saudi economy, Mr. Abal Khail said that despite the negative impact, the kingdom was capable over the last decade to utilise its oil revenues to build the country's infrastructure and development by establishing modern projects and financial institutions in the agricultural, industrial and construction fields. He said these establishments are capable of

"standing on their own." He said that Saudi Arabia's development was continuing within the resources available to the kingdom. He said the capital that has been invested in the kingdom over the last few years was capable of backing this development.

On Saudi financial assistance to Arab countries, the finance minister said that such aid "would not be affected more than the kingdom is affected." He explained that Saudi aid to Arab states and development in these states "are vulnerable to the same influences."

"The available resources will proportionately continue on the Arab level whether reduced or increased," he said.

Mr. Abal Khail, who met on Saturday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, left for Riyadh later in the evening.

OPEC Fund chief: Geneva talks will continue until accord

By Salamah B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will continue the ongoing discussions in Geneva until they reach an agreement to cut their combined output in order to lift up world oil prices, Dr. Y. Seyyid Abdullah, director general of the OPEC Fund for International Development, said Saturday.

Dr. Abdullah said that OPEC, "which faces one of its most difficult problems since its establishment, will not collapse even if there was no immediate agreement."

"If there is no agreement this week, they will continue discussions later," Dr. Abdullah said.

"It is within the interests of all OPEC members that the Geneva meeting leads to a solution."

He said if no agreement was reached, "all will lose."

"No country wants to squander its resources," he told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Dr. Abdullah said that with the current decline in oil prices, the growth of the OPEC fund's resources was reduced. However, he said, the fund was capable of operating for a long time without new resources on a sustained basis.

The fund, established in 1976, has a capital of \$4 billion today.

Cancelling that "differences between large and small oil producers are not easy to solve," Dr. Abdullah said: "The stake everyone has in OPEC is so large that dialogue simply cannot stop until a

middle ground solution is reached. I do not see a break up."

Dr. Abdullah said OPEC was struggling to agree on how much oil is to be taken out from the market, how much from the OPEC share, how much from non-OPEC and how much each country in OPEC will have to sacrifice to bring up oil prices.

"The organisation is now facing a difficult problem," Dr. Abdullah said. "It is bound to learn from these difficulties within the 13-member group as well as external influences."

Dr. Abdullah, 45, explained that oil prices are bound to go up again in the next few years. He said many small oil exploration firms were closing down due to the decline in oil prices and allocations for

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U.S. stages atomic test, comes under Soviet attack

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

The United States on Saturday exploded its first nuclear device since the Soviet Union extended a unilateral test ban past the end of March and immediately came under denunciation from the Soviet News Agency TASS.

The first announced atomic weapons test since Dec. 31, went off at 8:15 a.m. local time (1615 GMT) under Yucca Flat, 130 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas, the Department of Energy said.

The test had been set for 8 a.m. but was delayed by wind conditions. Energy Department spokesman James Boyer said the blast looked "real fine and normal."

Within minutes after the test took place, TASS denounced it as a "new militaristic action" but gave no further indication of possible Soviet reaction.

The brief TASS dispatch, quoted a group of U.S. congressmen as saying it was designed to undermine prospects for a nuclear test ban.

"The Reagan administration's new militaristic action was carried out despite a wave of indignation in the United States, including Congress, that was started by the announcement of the test," TASS said.

Last week Moscow extended its seven-month-old moratorium on nuclear tests, due to expire on March 31, until after Washington carried out its next explosion.

The test was weapons-related

and had a yield of up to 150 kilotons — 20 times the force of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, a U.S. spokesman said.

U.S. legislators on Friday criticised the timing of the blast. In a letter signed by 58 house members and five senators, they urged President Ronald Reagan to cancel the test and accept the Soviet moratorium.

"We're here to say 'stop.' For God's sake, stop, Mr. President," Representative Berkeley Bedell told a news conference.

The U.S. test followed an endorsement by NATO defence ministers of the U.S. refusal to give up "Star Wars" and expressed interest in a companion European programme that would research defences against missiles fired on Western Europe.

The U.S. "Star Wars" research into a space-based missile defence systems dominated the agenda at the two-day nuclear planning group meeting of 12 defence ministers in Wuerzburg, West Germany.

It ended on Friday with a joint communique voicing "strong support" for the U.S. arms-negotiating stance in Geneva, including the U.S. insistence on researching space weapons.

The final communique accused the Soviets of an unwarranted offensive arms buildup and continuing violations of arms-control treaties.

Shultz arrives in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived on Saturday for talks on demands from Ankara for more American aid and on Turkish disputes with Greece that weaken the Western alliance.

He was met at Istanbul's Ataturk airport by Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu but made no statement.

Aside from a private meeting with Mr. Halefoglu Saturday night, Mr. Shultz's weekend programme in Turkey's largest city calls for sightseeing and restaurant-going.

He is due to cruise on the Bosphorus, see the blue mosque and visit the covered bazaar, a huge indoor market selling jewellery, carpets, leather and other goods.

He goes to Ankara on Monday to see Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, fresh back from a visit to Baghdad, Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem and Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk.

Talks are expected to focus on demands Turkey lodged last September for a big increase in the aid it gets from the United States in return for granting military facilities.

Instead of the \$714 million it gets in the current fiscal year, Ankara says it needs at least \$1

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U.N. urges rapid Israeli withdrawal from S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A senior U.N. official said Saturday the United Nations wanted a rapid Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon to let U.N. peace-keeping troops deploy to the border.

"We are trying to find ways of ensuring that (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 425 is implemented as soon as possible," Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding told reporters here.

Mr. Goulding, on a Middle East tour, said the existence of Israel's self-declared "security zone" across its northern border with Lebanon was preventing the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from fulfilling its mandate.

Resolution 425 calls for the 5,600-man force to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and help restore Lebanese state authority in the South.

Mr. Goulding spoke after discussing the future of UNIFIL, whose mandate is due for renewal next month, with Prime Minister Rashid Karami. He also met President Amin Gemayel and Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri.

"We insist on implementing Resolution 425. We hope the U.N. will play its role and meet its responsibility," Mr. Karami said. Government sources said Mr. Karami told Goulding that if Israel relinquished its buffer strip, resistance attacks would stop. Otherwise, "Lebanon would not be responsible for more attacks, even inside Israel."

Israel's liaison officer in the "security zone," identified as Col.

Musa Al Aad, Friday ruled out an Israeli pullout "in the near or distant future," Beirut's An Nahar daily said.

It quoted him as telling villagers in the enclave that this was because Lebanese and UNIFIL troops were incapable of keeping order in the South.

He said there was "an escalation of terrorist intentions by radicals and fundamentalists to (launch) attacks against us."

The fervently anti-Israel Hizbollah (Party of God) captured two Israelis in the "security zone" last month, triggering a massive Israeli search of Shi'ite villages to the north.

In a sign of resurgent Palestinian commando activity in the South, the Palestine National Liberation Army-Southern Area Command, said Friday four of its fighters had been killed in a clash

with Israeli troops in northern Israel.

The hitherto unknown group, which issued its claim in the southern port of Sidon, is thought to belong to the mainstream Fatah faction of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. It did not say when the clash occurred.

The four commandos, two Palestinians, an Iraqi and a Pakistani, captured four Israeli soldiers before they and their prisoners were killed in a seven-hour battle, it said.

Israel has not announced the loss of any soldiers, but said four commandos were killed inside Lebanon in a clash with pro-Israeli militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Thursday.

Algeria seeks stronger relations with Libya

ALGIERS (R) — A high-ranking Algerian government delegation began talks in Tripoli Saturday to strengthen links with Libya after a period of mutual distrust.

Diplomats said rapprochement between Libya and Algeria could signal a realignment in North Africa where five states have been divided into two rival camps.

Led by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi and comprising

the heads of nine government departments, the Algerian delegation arrived in the Libyan capital Friday night, the official news agency APS reported.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Brahimi said Algerian President Chadli Benjedid attached increased importance to relations with Libya after meeting Col. Muammar Qaddafi on their common frontier last Jan. 28.

Soviets may use navy, air force but not troops in Mideast war

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Soviet Union may send naval ships and air force units to help Syria in any new war with Israel but is unlikely to send combat troops, an Israeli study contends.

In a recently published analysis entitled the Cautious Bear, Efraim Karsh of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies suggested the Kremlin would only risk Soviet troops to rescue its chief Mideast ally from an embarrassing defeat.

"If Syria initiates the war, it will most probably not receive any Soviet military support before it is driven back to the defence strategically," wrote Karsh, an expert on international relations.

"If Israel is the first to break the peace, Soviet military engagement will be more immediately forthcoming."

The study did not assess the prospects of war, but both foreign and Israeli analysts say increasing tensions between Israel and Syria have heightened the possibility. The most probable venue is the Golan Heights, where a U.N.-policed truce has held since May 31, 1974.

"It appears we are moving in the direction of war — whether it is this summer or in a year or two, I don't know," said a foreign ministry source who demanded anonymity.

Similar assessments have appeared in the Israeli press, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said he is taking President Hafez

Assad's "extremism" seriously.

One foreign ministry source said senior U.S. officials appeared to be underestimating the possibility of a war in the near future because of the likelihood that Syria would be defeated. He said similar thinking was behind the failure of U.S. intelligence to predict the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

In the 1973 war, the Soviet Union threatened to send airborne troops to the Mideast and the United States declared a nuclear alert.

In his study, Karsh said the Kremlin would dispatch troops in a future conflict as a "last resort." For that to happen, he said, the capital of Damascus would have to be threatened or Syria's army on the verge of a major defeat.

"If the Soviet threats failed to achieve their deterrent function, the USSR might very reluctantly feel obliged to send some ground units to Syria," he said.

Even so, Karsh forecast, the Soviet action would be limited to a token force of up to one airborne division (10,000 to 12,000 soldiers). "This force would have some political effect, but a negligible military impact," he wrote.

Despite a long-term "friendship treaty," he said the Soviets would not be expected to participate in any war operations outside Syria's current frontiers — either in Lebanon or the Golan Heights, which were occupied by Israel in 1967.

The study said that historically the Soviet Union had intervened

Relatives of French hostages appeal to kidnappers

BEIRUT (R) — Relatives of three French hostages held in Lebanon Saturday appealed jointly to the secretive Islamic Jihad (holy war) group to free them.

The message, written in Arabic and dated March 22, appeared in Beirut's An Nahar newspaper, which received it in Paris.

It was signed by Eliane Fontaine, wife of diplomat Marcel Fontaine, Simone Carton, daughter of diplomat Marcel Carton and Joelle Kauffmann, wife of journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann.

"In the name of God, we adjure you to put an end to our waiting for the return of husbands, fathers and brothers..."

"Stop our suffering which we can not bear, now that one year has passed," the letter said.

Carton, 62, and Fontaine, 43, were seized in Muslim-held west Beirut on March 22, 1985. Kauffmann, 42, was kidnapped exactly two months later, with sociologist Michel Sautat, 38.

On March 3, Islamic Jihad announced it had "executed" Sautat as a spy. His body has not been found.

"We ask you, is it just for individuals to pay for acts of others and policies for which they are not responsible?" the letter said. It urged Islamic Jihad to "respond to this appeal sent from our hearts to your conscience."

Washington confirms new 10-day manoeuvres over Gulf of Sidra

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three U.S. aircraft carriers moved to link up forces in the central Mediterranean Friday as the Defence Department confirmed they would conduct flight operations near the Libyan coast for at least the next 10 days.

Sources within the administration of President Ronald Reagan indicated the new exercise, which will begin Saturday night, will include flights over the disputed Gulf of Sidra.

Late Friday evening, the Pentagon said it had filed a new "notice of intent" with International Civil Aviation Authorities advising that the navy would conduct operations within the so-called Tripoli flight information region.

The notice specifies the manoeuvres will begin at 7:01 p.m. est Saturday (0100 GMT Sunday) and extend through 6:59 p.m. est (2395 GMT) April 1.

The notice referred only to manoeuvres within the Tripoli flight-control region, a broad expanse of airspace over the Mediterranean Sea stretching more than 1,100 kilometres in length. The Gulf of Sidra, off Libya, lies within the region, and Reagan administration sources said the U.S. battle group of three carriers would at some point move southward across the "line of death."

The "line of death" is an imaginary boundary across the top of the Gulf of Sidra, drawn by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi. He warned in January that U.S. planes or ships moving across that line would be subject to attack.

Top administration officials, who agreed to discuss the matter

only if not identified, said they could not disclose details of the mission. But the sources confirmed that Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger had approved the new round of exercises.

"They might start out flying near Libya without moving over the gulf, but eventually they'll move their operations outward," said one source.

The sources said the navy's battle group would be completely formed by Saturday when the last carrier, the America, would have arrived in the central Mediterranean. The Coral Sea and Saratoga already are in formation, and the two combat ships that sailed near the coast of Soviet Union last week in the Black Sea have likewise arrived in the area, they said.

The sources refused to say whether the manoeuvres had required the personal approval of Mr. Reagan, but indicated the National Security Council and the State Department had been involved in the planning.

One source also hinted, without elaboration, that Mr. Weinberger had discussed the upcoming movements with Gen. Bernard Rogers, the supreme allied commander of NATO, earlier this week during a trip to Europe.

In another development, Pentagon sources disclosed that "some" of the eight Soviet combat ships anchored near Libya had departed their anchorage and had moved out into the Mediterranean. The sources declined to say how many of the combat vessels were now under way, but

stressed they appeared to be engaged in only routine operations at this point.

During the last two major U.S. exercises in the area, conducted in January and February with two carriers, Soviet ships deployed a "picket line" across the Libyan coast to keep tabs on Sixth Fleet movements.

The Gulf of Sidra is a large, U-shaped body of water that cuts into the central Libyan coastline. Libya claims the gulf as its own. The United States dismisses that claim, recognising only a 19-kilometre territorial limit.

The last time U.S. and Libyan forces actually fought each other — in 1981, the dogfight occurred as two navy fighters were flying over the Gulf of Sidra.

GCC chief in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), arrived here for a three-day official visit to Algeria, the Algerian News Agency APS said.

Mr. Bishara, who came here from neighbouring Morocco, is on a tour of North Africa to explain to government leaders the concern of Gulf states over the war between Iran and Iraq.

During his stay in Algiers he is due to give a lecture at the National Administration School to explain the GCC's organisation and objectives.

Security Council assails Iraqi use of chemicals, Iranian intransigence

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has condemned Iraq for allegedly using chemical weapons in the Gulf war and has implicitly criticised Iran for refusing to talk peace.

The condemnation came after several days of private consultations by the council's 15 members and was issued in the form of a presidential statement.

The council president for March, Ambassador Ole Biering of Denmark, read the statement on behalf of the council. He said the members are "profoundly concerned" by the report of the U.N. team of experts sent to the area to investigate Iran's charges that Iraq has been using chemical weapons.

The U.N. special investigators reported "significant new evidence" that Iraq has recently used chemical weapons in its war against Iran.

The council statement also condemned the "prolongation of the conflict which continues to take a heavy toll of human lives and to cause considerable damage as well as to endanger peace and security in the area."

Alluding to fears that the war might spread, with Iranian troops occupying Iraq's Fao Peninsula now within sight of Kuwaiti territory, it said Council members "express concern over the risk of an extension of the conflict to other states in the region and call

upon the two sides to respect the territorial integrity of all states, including those that are not parties to the hostilities."

Noting Iraq had expressed its willingness to heed a council resolution last month calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities, it stressed the need for full compliance by both parties, saying this would open the way for a "prompt, comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of the conflict."

In a Geneva forum on Friday, the U.S. took a similar stand, criticising Iraq for its alleged use of chemical weapons and Iran for its refusal to talk peace.

U.S. Ambassador Donald Lowitz told the 40 delegations of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on March 20 that Baghdad's use of chemical warfare is a "serious violation of international law."

But Mr. Lowitz added that "we should not lose sight of the fact that primary responsibility for the continuation of this senseless conflict lies with Iran."

"The United States has noted the report of the mission dispatched by the secretary general of the United Nations to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq conflict," he said. "The report's conclusion that Iraq has recently used chemical weapons against Iran is in accord with the United States findings."

Kuwaiti leader urges efforts to end racial discrimination

KUWAIT (R) — The Emir of Kuwait has urged all nations to drop any support they give to governments practising racial discrimination.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah named no countries, but Kuwait is a staunch opponent of South Africa and in past criticism of Israel has also sought to equate

Zionism with South Africa's apartheid race discrimination policy.

"The time has come for shifting intransigent positions and abandoning tyrannical powers to eliminate racism with its negative effect and destructive concept," he said in a message read at the United Nations by Ambassador Mohammad Abdulhassan.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
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24:00	Close down
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:30	Koran
15:00	Live transmission from Bahrain of Soccer match: Kuwait Vs. Saudi Arabia
17:00	Cartoons
17:25	Children Programmes
18:25	Local Series
19:25	News Programme on Jordan
20:00	News in Arabic
20:35	Arabic series
21:25	Tomorrow's Programme
21:30	Local Varieties Programme
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Champs Elysees
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Israeli Insight
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Me and My Girl
21:10	End of Empire: Rhodesia
22:00	News in English
22:30	Dance and Music
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHZ. AM & 99 KHZ. FM	& partly on 95.60 KHZ. AM
7:44:11-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session Cont.
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Cont.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:15	Science Report
15:00	Concert Hour
16:30	News Summary
16:35	Instrumentals
16:50	Old Favourites
17:00	News Summary
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Jazz Hour
19:00	Newsdesk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont.
21:55	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
A French exhibition on film directing at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 27).	
An art exhibition by Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 30).	
French exhibition "M.D. portrait de Femme" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27).	
A handicraft exhibition by the Soviet Republic of Belarus at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 30).	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 6610267
American Centre	644371
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	6361478
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	620409
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Hussien Youth City	6678176
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Amman Municipal Library	637111
University of Jordan Library	843555
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qai'a (Claret Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Lwadi. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lwadi, 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah, 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah, 771261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah, 771751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 677534.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.	
Rabbi's Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:13	Fajr
07:36	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:44	Dhuhr
15:12	'Asr
17:59	Maghrib
19:13	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Aha information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 1081/3200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
02:30	Bucharest (RO)
09:00	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
09:35	Kuwait (RJ)
09:55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	Jeddah (RJ)
10:00	Cairo, Agade (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
12:00	Istanbul (TK)
12:45	Kuwait (RJ)
15:05	Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
17:00	Madrid (RJ)
17:15	Baghdad (IA)
17:55	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
18:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:00	London (RJ)
18:00	Rome (RJ)
18:05	Athens, Damascus (OA)
18:45	Cairo (RJ)
19:30	Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
20:10	New York, Amsterdam, Geneva (RJ)
20:30	Frankfurt (LH)
20:30	London (BA)
23:20	Cairo (MS)
01:00	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
03:30	Bucharest (RO)
06:20	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:30	Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:50	Beirut (MEA)
10:15	Damascus, Rome (AZ)
10:20	Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
10:45	Tunis, Copenhagen (RJ)
11:30	Vladivostok, New York (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
12:15	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
13:30	Agade, Cairo (RJ)
14:30	Dhahran (TK)
14:45	Kuwait (RJ)
16:00	Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
18:30	Baghdad (IA)
19:30	Kuwait (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
20:20	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
20:45	Baghdad (RJ)
MARITIME TRAFFIC	
Regular-line ships leaving at Aqaba port:	
— Helandemas	
— Rudolf Diesel	
— Teus	
Amrit Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
As the khamaseh condition prevail in the area, it will be dusty, with chances for scattered showers. Southerly moderate winds will be freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.	
Amman 18. Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

NIGHT DUTY

Amman governorate 891228

Amman civil defence 198, 199

Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131

Civil Defence Quesneville 770753

Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306

Ambulance 193, 775111

Amman downtown fire brigade 198

First aid 630341

Blood bank 778303

Civil Defence rescue 641361

Fire headquarters 622090-3

Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Police headquarters 639141

Traffic police 896390

Electric Power Co. 636314, 624681

Municipal water complaints 771258

Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 1333/3060

AMMAN:

Dr. Moussa Basheer 667224

Dr. Mohammed Al Ajam 892224

Firas Pharmacy 661912

Al Selen pharmacy 639730

Al Anay pharmacy 623440

Al Hayat pharmacy 624636

TAXIS:

Venecia taxi 645383

Al Ashraf taxi 663911

Mohyar taxi 644574

Assen taxi 844507

Al Alam taxi 666022

Al Nahar taxi 811619

Shmeisani taxi 665294

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Beshawi 274446

Bashtar pharmacy (—)

Al Kariz pharmacy (—)

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/352

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669313

University Hospital 845845/65

Al-Mushar Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abidali 666127/37

U-J-Ah, Abidali 664764

Italian, Al-Mulajjem 777412

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Dr. Mohammed Yghmour 985299

Al Hawaz pharmacy (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19

Radin Jordan 774111/19

Ministry of Tourism 642311

Hotel complaints 666412

Police complaints 661716

Telephone Information 661716

Jordan and Middle East calls 10

Overseas calls 17

Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 250/250

Apple (American) 550/500

Banana 300/240

Banana (Mukammara) 250/220

Berroot 130/100

Beans 300/250

Broad beans 170/120

Cabbage 60/40

Carrot (yellow) 150/100

Carrot (black) 150/100

Cauliflower 150/100

Cucumber (large) 150/100

Cucumber (small) 240/180

Eggplant (large) 220/160

Eggplant (small) 280/240

Garlic 150/100

Grapefruit 140/100

Lemon (per one) 200/150

Lettuce 100/100

Marrow (large) 150/100

Marrow (small) 250/180

Onion (dry) 180/140

Onion (green) 120/80

Orange (local) 100/60

Orange (Samsouni) 260/220

Orange (Jezal and Valencia) 120/80

Pepper (sweet) 330/100

Pepper (hot) 480/400

Fenugreek (local) 140/100

Fenugreek (sweet) 200/150

Radicchio 30/20

Radishes 150/100

Spinach 130/100

Tomatoes 130/60

Queen Noor honours female Ph.D. graduates

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday patronised a ceremony held to honour pioneering Jordanian women who have earned their Ph.D.s and have worked hard to upgrade the status of women in the Kingdom.

A number of key personalities and professional ladies attended the ceremony, organised jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Business and Professional Women's Club.

In a speech at the outset of the ceremony, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan spoke of the challenges facing Arab women and said that the Jordanian woman has proven success in reaching higher stages in education side by side with men.

Honouring women today, is nothing but a reaffirmation of the Islamic era where women were given the right to education, culture and self-reliance, the minister said.

He pointed out the challenges facing Arab women in the current post-colonial era. Women are striving to regain some of her stolen rights which had been guaranteed under Islam, said Mr. Hassan.

It is due to her persistence and will that women today have secured positions as mothers, lawyers, workers, doctors and engineers. They have also enlisted in the military, public security forces and other faculties.

In an Al Mufti, president of the Business Women Federation, delivered a speech in which she praised the Arab women as they strive to attain knowledge and education.

Mrs. Mufti expressed hope that the large number of Jordanian post graduate women will secure

the optimum use of their degrees for the benefit of the country. She called for utilising science and technology in the promotion of the community and environment.

Business Women Club President Hind Abdul Jaber paid tribute to the continued support by the Queen to the working women who work side by side with the men.

In reference to the achievements of Jordanian women in education and culture, Mrs. Jaber said approximately 10,000 females are studying in the Jordanian universities. Another 13,000 females study at community colleges, she added.

Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Berlis, the guest of honour, said that the philosophy of education has two sides: democracy and modernisation.

Democracy on the one hand, is providing equal opportunities for education and Jordan is considered to have achieved democracy compared with countries of the Third World.

On behalf of the honoured women, Dr. Insaf Arafat expressed appreciation to the Queen for her efforts on behalf of women and education.

At the end of the ceremony, the Queen distributed shields to the following participants: Dr. Arafat, Dr. Najwa Khouri, Dr. Amal Al Sukhni, Dr. Mai Abdul Hadi, Dr. Serri Sabe, Al Eish, Brigadier Dr. Nurwar Bultagi, Dr. Izid Badran, Dr. Rawayeh Altemo, Dr. Leila Bustami, Dr. Thana's Salous, Dr. Leila Yaghi, Dr. Salma Toukan, Dr. Nawal Bakcer, Dr. Alia Bouran, Dr. Fadwa Al Yaman, Dr. Amal Al Saket, Dr. Naheda Qamari, Dr. Heifa Fakhouri, Dr. Khatam Khasawneh, Dr. Janet Naghawi, Dr. Fatmeh Al Smadi, Dr. Mikram Zghul and Dr. Manar Fayyad.

Prince Hassan receives delegation from Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday received a Pakistani military delegation currently visiting Jordan and briefed them on the Middle East situation, the Iranian aggression on Iraq, the Israeli authority's expansionist policies and Red Sea security.

Prince Hassan, who received the head and members of the military delegation at his office, also emphasised the importance of cooperation and unity among Islamic countries, and the importance of returning to the basis of Islam.

The two meetings were attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Ehsan Rashid and Pak-

istan's Defence Attache to Jordan Waheed Bhatti.

Earlier on Saturday, the director of the investment encouragement department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr. Youssef Hayajneh, Saturday met with a visiting delegation from the Pakistani National Defence College. Dr. Hayajneh reviewed the social and economic progress in Jordan and outlined the reasons for high rates of growth in Jordan during the early 1980's.

He also pointed out that the revised law for the encouragement of investment and recent economic decisions would further encourage and attract Arab capital to the Kingdom.

Kilani secures increase in loan from World Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani said that the World Bank has agreed loan allocation for financing WAJ projects from \$40 million to \$50 million. Mr. Kilani was speaking upon his return to Amman after a visit to Washington where he led a Jordanian delegation in talks with the World Bank aimed at obtaining loans from the bank to finance WAJ projects. He added that the bank has also agreed on increasing its contribution to civil construction projects from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the total cost of these projects. Mr. Kilani pointed out that it was agreed with the bank to enlist the help of Jordanian experts from the WAJ in the World Bank's missions to some Arab countries. The World Bank loan will be used for financing new water and sewerage projects; improving some existing projects in greater Amman, Jerash, Ajlun, and Balqa. It will also be used to purchase the equipment needed to improve the efficiency of water and sewerage networks as well as water pumps.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trade show nets \$11.5 million in contracts

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemeni traders have signed \$11.5 million worth of contracts with Jordanian exhibitors at the First Jordanian industrial exhibition that concluded in Sana'a Friday evening, according to Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, director general of the Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation (JTCC). The exhibition, organised by JTCC in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Amman Chamber of Commerce, lasted for one week. A total of 117 industrial establishments took part in the exhibition, Dr. Bani Hani said. The folklore troupe from Alia, Royal Jordanian Airline, performed four times during the exhibition.

Halley's Comet spotted from Wadi Rum

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific mission spotted Halley's Comet on Friday morning at Wadi Rum region, in the southern part of the Kingdom. Meteorology Department Director General Dr. Abanda, who supervised tracing the comet's orbit, said that the comet was spotted between 3:15 and 5:00 a.m. at an altitude of some 65 million kilometres. The comet was near the constellation Sagittarius and heading towards Scorpio, said Dr. Abanda. He added that the comet could be seen clearly until Apr. 11.

Yarmouk liaison office computer seminar begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course in computing for engineers began Saturday at Yarmouk University Liaison Office. The course is organised by the university's Department of Continuing Education and Community Service. Addressing the opening ceremony, the university's president Dr. Adnan Badran stressed the importance of such courses for engineers to acquaint them with the latest advancements in computer science. One hundred engineers are participating in the five-week course.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday presents awards to female Ph.D. graduates for their contributions to Jordanian society and development (Petra photo)

Experts to review benefits of remote sensing technology for Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A general review of "remote sensing" technology and its development over the years and a close scrutiny of how Jordan could utilise the technology to meet national requirements are expected to be the focus of a symposium which opens here on Monday.

Various aspects of applying remote sensing of ground characteristics in preparing field surveys, measuring and monitoring water, air and soil and locating potential sources of minerals and oil will be discussed at the three-day symposium, to be held at the Jordan National Geographical Centre (JNGC) in Jubeiha.

The event, which brings together at least eight French experts in remote sensing and data processing through satellite and leading Jordanian specialists in the field, will be opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

While the French experts will deliver lectures on the basic fundamentals of obtaining "images" of the ground through satellite photography and processing the images and transforming them into data, the Jordanian participants will present papers on the various aspects of applying the technology to Jordan's benefit.

In a press conference held on Saturday, Nayef Al-Roussan of the JNGC and Henri Lebreton, head of the French Cultural Centre in Amman, explained some facets of Franco-Jordanian cooperation in remote sensing technology.

The French satellite "Spot", specially designed for remote sensing applications, was launched into orbit by the European Ariane rocket last month. The satellite is fully operational now and beams

regular images of various parts of the earth of its receiving stations. These images, if correctly interpreted and transformed into data, could go a long way in any country's efforts to pinpoint natural resources and classify soil and land for agricultural and a host of other purposes.

Receiving stations

The ideal situation for any country to utilise the technology is to enter an agreement with France and build a receiving station for "Spot" beams. But the cost of building such a station is deemed too expensive and therefore most countries maintain bilateral agreements with those who have already built facilities to receive and process the French satellite's beams. Under these agreements, the receiving stations provide "Spot" images. However, no receiving station is authorised to provide images of any particular state to another without the approval of the former.

Franco-Jordanian cooperation in this field comes within a bilateral agreement signed in 1976. French experts regularly train Jordanian specialists in the use of remote sensing and related fields.

Perhaps the central theme of the Amman symposium, jointly organised by the JNGC and the French embassy, could be more clearly defined in the light of the topics to be discussed. The lectures to be delivered by French experts include: "Spot system and data distribution"; "Image processing for remote sensing"; "Registration and classification of multispectral and multitemporal space born data for monitoring land use and urban areas"; "Some aspects of remote sensing as applied to regional planning"; "Remote sensing as applied to the field

of cartography"; "Contribution of high resolution remote sensing to a geographic information system on the Jordanian coast"; "Vegetable monitoring, methods and operational system using Spot data"; and "Remote sensing as applied to field of geology and hydrology".

Jordanian lectures

On their part, the Jordanian lectures will cover: "Remote sensing project JNGC"; "Experience in digital processing"; "Input of air photo and remote sensing data into urban information system"; "Environmental application of remote sensing in the area"; "Geological mapping and exploration for natural resources in Jordan"; "Weather satellite on meteorology"; "Geological application of remote sensing in Jordan"; "Application of photo interpretation method in geomorphological surveys in Jordan"; and "remote sensing for Jordan and neighbouring countries".

The Jordanian lectures at the symposium include experts from the JNGC, the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), the Ministry of Planning, the University of Jordan, the Meteorological Department and the Aqaba Regional Authority.

The concluding session of the symposium will bring into focus the issue of "remote sensing as applied to Jordan".

Answering questions at Saturday's press conference, Mr. Roussan said remote sensing could help Jordan's quest to locate oil deposits. However, he said, satellite beams could only indicate locations of oil among other natural resources and "interpretation of images, coupled with thorough seismologic surveys and field inspections are needed to produce definite results."

King condemns racism in message to the U.N.

NEW YORK (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said in a message to the United Nations that Jordan shares the international community's rejection of policies aimed at persecuting the human race and those which encroach on human, civil, natural and political rights because of race, colour, policy or religious faith.

The message, read out by Jordan's permanent ambassador to the United Nations Abdullah Salah to the U.N. Anti Racial Discrimination Committee, said that Jordan upholds the charter of the United Nations and remains concerned over and is deeply sorry that policies of racial discrimination are still being exercised in the present century in violation of the United Nations charter and international laws.

The King said that the world is witnessing such human rights violations which are being done against the Palestine Arab people now under the yoke of Israeli rule and he added that the Palestinians

are being treated with oppression. Israel is undertaking measures designed to deprive the Arab people under its rule from their rights in their homeland, King Hussein added.

South Africa

He said the South African regime in Pretoria is likewise depriving the black population of their basic human rights in flagrant violation of international principles and laws.

Jordan considers any regime which disregards human rights, does not respect the United Nations charter, its principles and res-

olutions and which practices discrimination among people under its rule as an outcast regime that should be confronted by all means, King Hussein's message continued.

He said: "By confronting such regimes we would reduce the danger poised against world peace and security and would contribute towards honouring the victims who fell throughout history while trying to confront racial discrimination."

King Hussein voiced Jordan's solidarity with the black people of South Africa and support for their just struggle to regain their rights and their human dignity. Jordan, he said, renews its commitment to work hand in hand with the international community to eliminate racial discrimination and any other inhuman practices that might endanger world peace and security.

The King's message was sent to the committee on its celebration of the international day for ending racial discrimination in the world.

Cabinet measures to encourage exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has passed a number of measures designed to encourage exports in line with the government's aim of reducing the deficit in the national trade balance, according to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

The measures are as follows: 1. Jordan will import goods from those countries which purchase Jordanian products, such as India, Indonesia, Romania, China and nations in South East Asia.

2. Jordan will conclude equivalent trade deals that could be implemented directly or through a third party.

3. Jordan will grant countries that import national products the priority over others in implementing projects in the country through direct contracts and in accordance with approved specification and competent prices.

4. Jordan will guide its private and public sectors to purchase goods from countries that import Jordanian national products by:

a. confining imports to these countries if these goods are of good quality and have competitive prices;

b. adopting a quota system for importing from these countries for the sake of increasing the volume of imports later.

5. Jordan will allow Jordanian exporters and businesses to import primary materials on a temporary basis for the purpose of undergoing processing locally and re-export. Special firms in this type of business and in re-export should take over these operations which require special skill and financing.

6. Jordan will speed up the pro-

cess of introducing amendments to the Trade Centres law. These include provisions for:

a. establishing a fund for supporting exports;

b. expanding and enlarging the objectives of the Trade Centres corporation to be a corporation for developing exports, empowered to offer facilities enabling exporters to obtain loans to finance their operations.

7. Jordan will issue clear instructions on this policy to its embassies abroad, especially in countries that import Jordanian products, urging them to do their best to maintain these markets and increase Jordan's exports to them and follow up the implementation of trade contracts.

These diplomatic missions will also try to open new markets and help market Jordan's products through explaining Jordan's laws and regulations designed to bolster the national economy. The cabinet said that in order to achieve these goals it plans to establish a share-holding private company under the name of the Jordanian Imports and Exports Company in which the Trade Centres Corporation, the Jordan Potash Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company, the Ministry of Supply, the Civil Service Consumer Corporation and the Military Consumer Corporation will hold shares. Once this company has proved successful it will be turned into a public shareholding company, the cabinet statement said.

The purpose of this company will be:

a. to execute trade contracts on equivalent basis directly with other countries or through a third party;

b. to draw up contracts with Jordanian producers for marketing their products abroad;

c. promoting the sale of Jordanian national products abroad through every possible means.

Hamzeh: pure water is a pillar of a healthy society

AMMAN (Petra) — The quality and quantity of drinking water determines nations' progress, according to Minister of Health, Dr. Zaid Hamzeh.

Dr. Hamzeh was speaking at the opening ceremony of a seminar on preventive maintenance of water networks and sanitation.

He said that pure water and proper sanitation together with food and personal health care are

the basics of a healthy society. The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr. Hamzeh emphasised the importance of public health to the processes of socio-economic development.

He said that public health can never be tackled as a separate issue from other factors.

European Parliamentarians vow to marshal support for UNRWA back home after eye-opening experience

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A delegation of parliamentarians from eight European countries left Amman Saturday after a one-week tour to the West Bank and Gaza to assess the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) operations and the conditions of the refugees. Accompanying the delegations were two members from the Parliamentary Association of Euro-Arab Cooperation (PAEAC), the Minister of Occupied Territory Affairs Taher Kana'an and the ministry undersecretary.

This visit was organised by UNRWA and the PAEAC, which aims to enhance cooperation between Europe and the Arab countries by arranging tours of the Middle East for prominent European politicians interested in contributing to a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. William Lee, UNRWA Public Information Officer in Jerusalem said that half of the delegates participating in last week's visit came because they were interested in UNRWA's humanitarian efforts, while the other half came because they were interested in the political scene. The parliamentarians' hectic schedule included two days in Gaza, two days in the West Bank, and one day in Amman, during which they spoke to Palestinian representatives and refugees, and visited camps and UNRWA installations. "It was a very full schedule, and I believe an eye opener for the delegates," said Mr. Lee.

Gaza — like the famine days in Ireland

Ireland Senator Michael Ferris, a member of the Labour Party, said that he had long known about the Palestinian problem and the difficulties in the refugee camps, but he had not realised the full

extent of the bad conditions in the camps, especially in the Gaza Strip. He said that the people living there lacked basic rights such as freedom of movement or housing. "I come from a poor country, but the conditions I saw here are like the famine days in Ireland," said Mr. Ferris.

Compared to Gaza, Mr. Ferris found the conditions on the West Bank a bit better. "At least they have somewhat of an opportunity to work. In Gaza day labourers can usually only find work in Israel two days out of six days of trying. And the two days only makes enough money to buy one sack of flour," he said. He saw many people who do not meet UNRWA's criteria for receiving free food begging for food. He added that in most cases 12 people live in one room. The senator then asked how can these people living in such poverty maintain their dignity?

"The way the Israelis treat the Palestinians is deplorable and utterly unacceptable," said Mr. Cyril D. Townsend, a conservative member of the House of Commons and chairman of the Council for the Advancement of Arab British Understanding. He added that since the Peres government has come into office more houses had been demolished, more Palestinians deported, and more administrative detentions imposed than under any other government in Israeli history.

Mr. Townsend said that Israeli practices such as blocking a room or rooms of Palestinian shelters, forcing all the members of the family to cook, sleep, live in one room, is common practice in the camps. In just one camp he saw two such cases. He also mentioned the Israeli assertion of the right to demolish the homes of refugees who have a family member in prison.

Surprise at Israeli security concerns

One incident mentioned by sev-

eral of the delegates was when Israeli soldiers with rifles entered a preparatory school in Jalazone Camp, and dragged out four 11-year-old boys and detained them for allegedly throwing rocks. The parliamentarians immediately contacted the Israeli representative, Colonel Ephraim Sneh, purported that they were the ones throwing rocks. Mr. Townsend and his fellow parliamentarians were greatly surprised to discover that this had been the sixteenth stone-throwing incident this month and wondered at the Israeli response to what seemed a very minor threat. Mr. Townsend added that the Israeli approach to security was wrong.

"The resistance stems from intimidation by the Israelis, and I can not help but sympathise with the Palestinians," said Mr. Ferris. In addition to the issues mentioned above, provocative actions like erecting settlements, placing barbed wire around the camps, and issuing curfews will mean that the people will continue to resist with any means available to them, he said.

UNRWA efforts

What has UNRWA done to help the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian refugees? It provides educational and health services for the refugees. Sixty per cent of UNRWA's \$100 million yearly budget is allocated for education services, said Mr. Lee. Both Mr. Ferris and Mr. Sveinung Luhde, a member of the Conservative Party in Norway, agreed that education is very important for a people without a homeland or rights, and is the best that can be expected in the conditions which prevail in camps.

UNRWA also provides free food for those who meet its criteria. Due to financial problems it has had to opt for a cold meal

(sandwich) instead of a hot meal recently, said Mr. Lee. He said that malnutrition, though not acute, is widespread in the camps. Mr. Ferris noted that this area needs a 50 per cent increase in funds. UNRWA is unable to meet this because, as Mr. Lee said, "We are in a financial crisis." Mr. Townsend said that a lot of international organisations plead lack of funds, but after seeing the conditions it is clear UNRWA is truly in a critical situation.

At the moment, 90 countries out of the 160 countries in the United Nations contribute to UNRWA. Mr. Ferris believes that the burden should be shared by all the countries and it is the duty of all governments to increase their input. "Even a contribution of \$1 shows that UNRWA is worthwhile as an international organisation, and the problems it faces are international problems," said Mr. Townsend.

It was noted by several of the parliamentarians that the Arab countries do not contribute as much as they should, especially the oil-rich countries, even though they benefit considerably from Palestinian labour in their countries. In addition, criticism was directed at the USSR for ignoring the problem. Only two or three countries in the Eastern bloc were mentioned as having contributed.

Financial aid is crucial to allow the organisation to continue its services. Major Elia Frij of Bethlehem told Dr. Cecil Goldet, a senator from France, that if UNRWA did not exist, most Palestinians would have left their land long ago. She, however, feels that the UNRWA taking care of the refugees makes them passive because they do not have to take of themselves.

"UNRWA is filling a vacuum which should be filled by proper, recognised political settlement for the problem," said Mr. Ferris.

Both he and Mr. Townsend stated that they think that the Jordan/PLO talks should be resumed because both need parties need each other and there is strength in unity.

People on the West Bank and in Gaza were in agreement. The general feeling derived by the delegates who spoke to the refugees was that they were deeply distressed over the break in relations between Jordan and the PLO. They wanted a political solution with Jordanian involvement.

Efforts back home

Resumption of talks as a way to find a political solution to ease the conditions may take some time. In the meantime, the parliamentarians will be engaged in every possible effort to increase awareness in their countries as to what UNRWA does, the problems the refugees face, and the need for moral and financial support.

For example, Mr. Townsend will be reporting to the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding and to the Conservative Middle East Council (made up of Conservative parliamentary members) what he saw. He will urge the government to do all it can to get Europe to play a larger role in the Middle East.

Mr. Townsend plans to meet with the minister of state and discuss the serious funding problems of UNRWA. "It will be an uphill struggle," he said, "since the activities of UNRWA are not sufficiently known." Additionally, attempts to build up interest and pressure groups interested in the Middle East will be ongoing. He believes that if more people know of the conditions of the camps and the refugees, Israeli practices would be less acceptable.

Mr. Luhde and Mr. Townsend both commented that pressure

should be placed on the United States to make them see that the only just solution will be by the Palestinians having self-determination. Mr. Luhde said that the U.S. had already accepted that the Palestinians have national rights, so the next step which follows logically is self-determination.

"U.S. policy in the region is disastrous because they do not attempt to create a balance," added Mr. Townsend.

Other members of the delegation made it clear that they would go back to Europe with one idea above all: to work on their governments to increase its financial support on humanitarian grounds, as a moral obligation, and to avoid more turmoil as it is believed that there will be more political turmoil in the Middle East if UNRWA is unable to deliver its services. They will reach the public through articles, on television, by lobbying with parties, ministers, and heads of governments.

Mr. Lee said that out of all the groups which have come to visit UNRWA installations, he has never seen a group so interested and sympathetic with the problems of the Palestinians. Let's hope something comes out of it.

AAC recovers 1984 losses, turns in profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Air Cargo (AAC) Company's revenues for 1985 amounted to JD 6.8 million, registering an increase of 50.4 per cent over 1984 figures, according to a company spokesman who also said that the company made a net profit of JD 283,000 out of its operations last year.

Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Another propaganda ritual

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's assertion on Friday that the strategic defence initiative (SDI) is not a subject for further discussion, but that all, save for Mr. Reagan's administration, would admit that a world without nuclear weapons is a safer one. The British prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher, has her own views on the "necessity" of nuclear weapons for world stability, but in the East-West strategic context it is President Reagan who believes firmly that only SDI, which is popularly known as "Star Wars," can give the world peace and security. The U.S. president also implicitly thinks that a lead in space-based nuclear weapons would make the Soviets frightened and therefore make them more pliable in their behaviour in world politics.

This reminds one of the U.S. boast of its naval superiority in the 50s by demonstrating the nuclear aircraft carriers and the cryptic remark attributed to the late Nikita Khrushchev that the nuclear aircraft carriers are nothing but "floating coffins on the sea." If it comes down to the chip, the U.S. space-based nuclear shield may not prove to be more than "deflatable balloons" for the nuclear-tipped Soviet missiles.

The Soviets say that the SDI is no harbinger of peace on earth and that the space-based defence shield is unacceptable as it would give the U.S. a first-strike capability. If the U.S. is stubborn with its execution, then there could be no ambiguity of an inevitable extension of a nuclear arms race taking place in space. The Soviet approach to world security and peace seems to be based on the possibilities of gradual reduction and elimination of all nuclear weapons from the arsenals of nuclear weapon powers under a time-bound programme. For a start, Mr. Gorbachev has stopped unilaterally all tests of nuclear weapons since August last year, calling upon the U.S. to observe the same, until January this year. Since then he has extended the period to March 31 and proposed a 15-year programme for complete and universal nuclear disarmament which includes also space weapons under strict international control.

The U.S.-Soviet views on the ways to maintain world peace and security are diametrically opposed to each other. Hence, there is no wonder that arms control negotiations in Geneva have so far produced sterile results despite the Reagan-Gorbachev summit of last November.

The total slackness in arms control negotiations is the accelerated momentum and deep obsession with making Mr. Reagan's dream of the "Star Wars" a concrete reality, all the while shuffling aside the Soviet proposals as mere propaganda. The proposed Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in the United States this year — if it ever takes place — will augur no clear prospects for nuclear disarmament if the present rigid trends are taken into consideration. Who can hope to see something new coming up in Mr. Reagan's sleeves other than his "Star Wars" related tantrums, come what may — death or annihilation?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Solidarity despite obstacles

DESPITE the obstacles in the path of finding a solution for the Palestine problem, Arab masses have hope that efforts will be made soon to give momentum for the peace process. The Arabs realise that a deadlock in the process can only serve the Israeli enemy and Israel's allies who are intent on placing these obstacles. The Arabs also realise that the challenge they now face requires from them first to end their internal differences before contemplating measures to find a lasting peace. One should emphasise that the struggle for finding a just solution for the Palestine problem has encountered many difficulties in the past but they all failed to plant despair in the Arab masses. It should also be said that the long series of Israeli aggressive actions inside and outside the occupied Arab territories succeeded only in bolstering Arab determination to pursue the struggle for regaining the usurped rights. The Arab masses believe that joint action is bound to bring about strategic balance with the Israeli enemy which is also necessary for forcing this enemy to accept peace. The Israelis are wrong to believe that the clouds that darken the skies of the Arab World will last for ever.

Al Dustour: Hopes on league's anniversary

ON the Arab League's 41st anniversary one remembers the great hopes that arose when their leaders drew up a charter for unifying the Arabs into one bloc capable of doing good service to the Arab Nation. The great symbol of the Arab League has become an anniversary that reminds the Arabs of their weakness and their retreat, with ranks in disarray. But it is only reasonable and fair to say that the weakness of the Arab League stems from the weak Arab countries. Since the Arabs are divided and weak, their league is weak and shaky, and in a pitiable condition. When the Arab League was established the Arabs pinned great hopes on it, seeing it a means of unifying their efforts and their ranks and building a strong nation. But now, after 41 years, the Arab League seems in a pitiable state though its members are far richer than they were at the time of the creation of their league. We are pained to see the Arabs unable to safeguard their interests and frustrating both themselves and their friends with their inept behaviour.

Sawt Al Shaab: Reminder of league's objectives

THE March 22 anniversary of the establishment of the Arab League reminds us of the objectives and the aims of the league's charter. This charter underlined the importance of the national concept and joint action as essential tools for preserving the nation's rights. The Arab League came into being because the Arabs believe that their solidarity is stronger than any weapon, and their joint and determined action is the only reply to the enemy's acts of aggression. The Arab League's 41st anniversary comes at a time when the Israeli enemy maintains its occupation of our land and part of Lebanon; the Iraqis continue to wage aggression on Iraq and the Arab countries are still at loggerheads on petty issues and side problems. The anniversary should encourage all Arabs to put an end to their differences and put aside all issues for the sake of building a unified and strong stand in the face of the common enemies.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Fixed interest rates distort the economy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

WHY should the Central Bank of Jordan intervene in fixing interest rates payable to depositors and chargeable from borrowers? Why not leave the rates to find their own levels in the market, based on supply and demand interaction, and the degree of risk involved?

These are simple questions. Yet no one bothers to answer. The monetary authorities behave as if "administratively fixed rates" of interest are a matter of course in a free economy, and accordingly do not warrant explanation or justification.

Had the Jordanian economy been a closed economy, with flows of local and foreign currencies restricted, we would have accepted fixing the rates as a reasonable measure in a centrally-planned financial system. However, under the full openness on international

markets, and our liberal system of outgoing and incoming transfers, fixing the rate of interest is nothing but an outright means of distorting the market and the economy.

At one time, interest on the dollar rose to over 20 per cent while it was kept the same in Jordan. Now that the interest rate on the dollar had dropped to around 8 per cent, the interest on the Jordanian dinar remains the same. One wonders how can we remain standstill in a moving and changing world.

If the objective of low interest rate in the past was part of the plan to encourage domestic investments, it obviously failed to achieve this objective during the past three years. Investment proved to be dependent on the general climate, and not on cheap interest rates alone.

On the other hand, if the objective of the relatively high interest rate prevailing these days is to encourage savings in Jordanian dinar, the plan is obviously a failure because higher rates will not increase the aggregate savings but will only divert potential investors in industry to financial assets.

Finally if the objective is to achieve stability, the objective is not attainable, simply because the Jordanian dinar is pegged to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR's). Interest rates on SDR's fluctuate in the market. It is ridiculous to fix interest rate on the dinar while it is fixed to the SDR, whose interest rate is floating. Thus the Jordanian economy becomes a victim of arbitrage.

This contradiction runs against the basic economic logic, yet it goes on, year after year.

with all its consequences of distortion and misallocation of resources.

Superimposed interest rates, or for that matter any price, mean that the statutory price is either higher or lower than the prices which otherwise would be determined by the forces of supply and demand. In both cases, there should be a crisis of oversupply or of shortages.

If the rate is low, funds will not be sufficient to meet the high demand. Part of the capital will find its way abroad to benefit from higher interest rates prevailing overseas. At the same time, economic projects will find that while the interest rate is quite convenient there is no credit available. Loans, like commodities in a socialist country, will be cheap but in short supply. Under such circumstances it is only natural

that banks will be more selective in extending credit to the most secured borrowers, mainly land lords who are the least productive, but whose risk is equally low.

On the other hand if interest rates were fixed at a higher level than the rate which otherwise would be freely determined by the market, people will shift to financial assets instead of productive forms of investments. At the same time, new investments will become more costly and less feasible. It is more likely that investors in such circumstances will postpone investments or cancel such plans altogether.

Fixing interest rates below or above the market are equally damaging and harmful. There is no reason that should limit our choices to two harmful alternatives, while we can leave interest rates to float and keep hands off the market. This is not to say that the Central Bank cannot intervene indirectly by influencing the supply of money, which will secure relative stability and avoidance of extreme fluctuations.

This reminds me of the story of the peasant who is used to lie to the government. When he was asked about the age of his son, he lied upwards, because if he lied upwards, his son will be taken to the army because he would be in the military age, and if he lied downwards, his son will be taken to the school because he would be at school age. The peasant, like our monetary authorities, should realise that his son's best interest will be served by telling the truth, and leaving the facts as they are.

Mitterrand and Chirac, France's odd couple

By John Morrison
Reuters

PARIS — As Francois Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac sign up for a political marriage of convenience, many people are already asking how long it will be before France's "odd couple" breaks up.

"Which one will devour the other?" asked the leading Paris newspaper Le Monde as the two men began their negotiations in the Elysee Palace.

Mitterrand, 69, and Chirac, 53, have been on opposite sides of the political fence for a quarter of a century. Under a political system polarised between left and right, they had hardly spoken together before this week.

During the campaign for last Sunday's general elections there was no contact, even behind the scenes, between the president and the man with whom he will now have to work as prime minister. Since 1981, Chirac has been received by Mitterrand a few times in his capacity as leader of the Gaullist RPR party before each of the annual seven-nation summits of industrialised nations.

As mayor of Paris he has also crossed the path of Mitterrand on formal occasions such as the annual ceremony at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe.

When Chirac was ushered into Mitterrand's office in the Elysee Palace on Tuesday for the first discussion on how to form a government, it was a meeting between virtual strangers.

Since 1958 French political life has been polarised into left and right-wing camps, reflecting the deep scars left by the collapse of the Fourth Republic and general Charles de Gaulle's creation of a centralised presidential regime.

The left in opposition questioned the legitimacy of the Fifth

Republic, denounced by Mitterrand in a 1964 pamphlet as "the permanent coup d'etat."

In 1981, it was the turn of the right, evicted from power after 23 years, to question the legitimacy of the left. No politician could afford to be seen in public fraternising with the rival camp.

When Chirac arrived for a television debate with Prime Minister Laurent Fabius last October, he normally courteous opponent refused to shake his hand in the studio in front of photographers. But times are changing in France. Opinion polls show the French find the cold war between left and right increasingly meaningless.

Political experts and sociologists say French society is now less divided than a decade ago and that on many subjects there is a broad consensus which professional politicians have been slow to acknowledge.

The consensus over defence and foreign policy, based on the legacy of de Gaulle, has been followed more recently by signs of a consensus over economic policy too. Before 1981, Mitterrand promised the French a "break with capitalism" which was quickly forgotten. Chirac's "break with socialism" is likely to suffer the same fate.

The turning point came when Mitterrand reluctantly accepted the need for an economic U-turn in March 1983 and approved a policy of austerity to fight inflation and trim the trade deficit at the price of increasing unemployment.

Chirac is a recent convert to the virtues of economic liberalism, just as Mitterrand was a belated convert to socialism. Both are pragmatists, politicians to their fingertips with little time for theory.

Arkhipov visit highlights Sino-Soviet political strains

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuters

PEKING — China is looking for a solid gesture from Moscow on basic problems dividing them before it will heed overtures for closer political ties, diplomats say.

China stressed its objections to Kremlin policy on Kampuchea by allowing a peace initiative to be launched in Peking during this week's visit by Soviet first Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov.

The initiative by Kampuchea's Prince Norodom Sihanouk and China's declared support for it, received more prominence than Arkhipov's activities in the media — at a time when the most senior Soviet politician was in Peking since 1969.

"The timing must have been deliberate, and looked like a slap in the face for Moscow," one Asian diplomat told Reuters.

But he said the apparently smooth progress of the trade and technical cooperation talks, the main reason for Arkhipov's presence, showed China was ready to develop such aspects of Sino-Soviet relations regardless of a two-decade old ideological rift.

A Soviet embassy spokesman said a protocol due to be signed before Arkhipov's departure on March 21 would show the results of the first meeting of the Sino-Soviet Commission on Trade and Technological Cooperation, formed last year.

He said trade was expected to top \$2 billion this year compared with \$1.9 billion in 1985, a year of rapid growth.

A Western diplomat said this sort of statistics illustrated that the overall trend of Sino-Soviet relations was improving, but they had struck a flat patch over what China calls the three obstacles.

These are the Soviet troop

strength along the Sino-Soviet border, the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and the Soviet backing for Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea.

Diplomats said China did not want to give Moscow the kudos of full-scale political reconciliation without extracting solid concessions on at least one of these matters.

East European sources said Kampuchea was the issue on which progress was most likely in the medium-term.

Vietnam has publicly rejected the plan by Sihanouk's three-party coalition to form a joint government with the pro-Vietnamese Heng Samrin administration in return for a start in pulling Vietnamese troops out of Kampuchea.

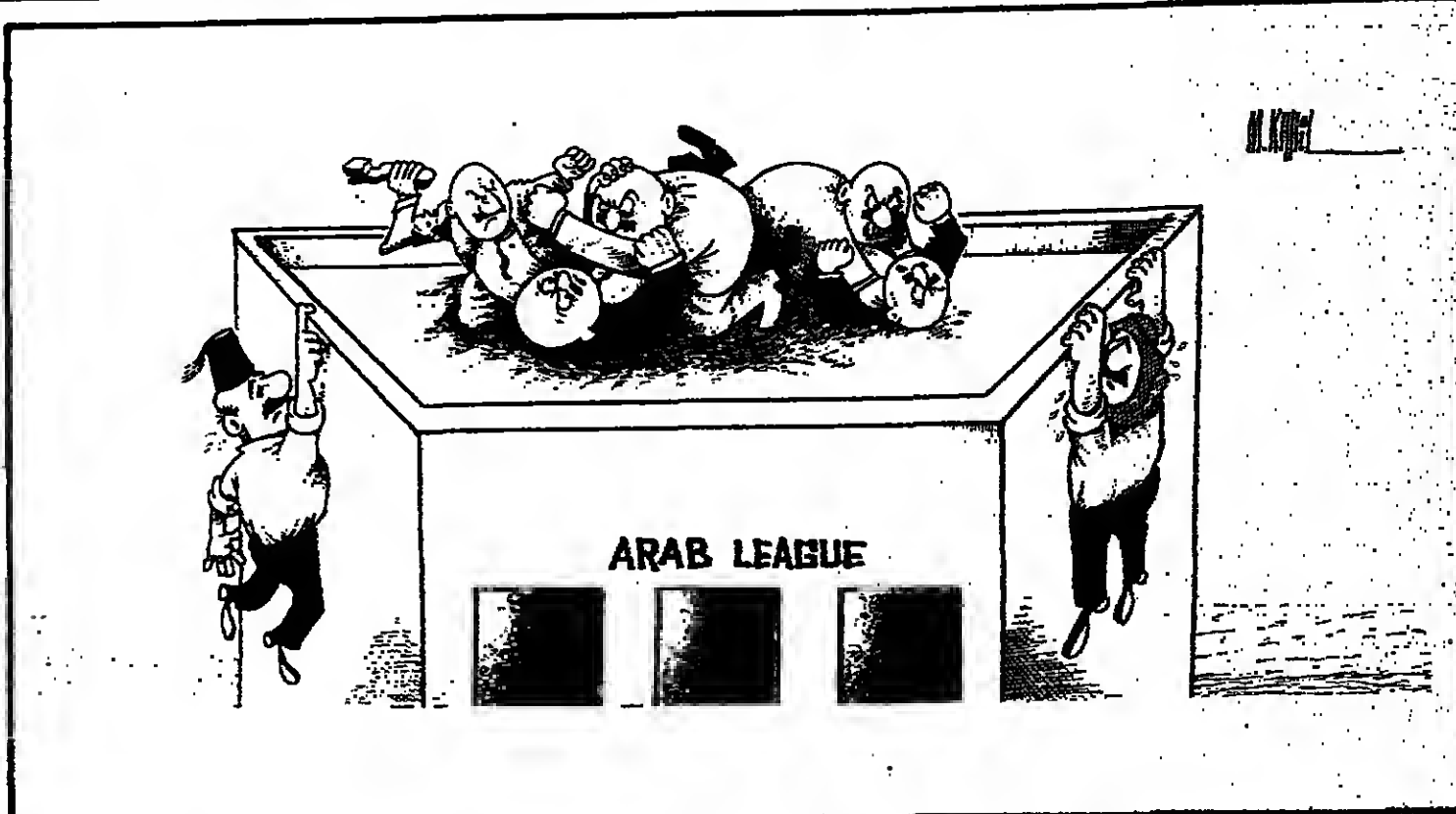
China wants Moscow to put pressure on Vietnam to end its seven-year military presence in Kampuchea.

Hanoi seeks to justify this partly by stressing a need to keep out of power Sihanouk's Khmer Rouge allies, widely accused of perpetrating large-scale atrocities against the Kampuchean people when they ran the country from 1975 to 1978.

Diplomatic sources said the latest Sihanouk proposals had more substance than previous efforts by the coalition and could help shape debate about Kampuchea.

By apparently careful orchestration of the way the Sihanouk plan was presented, diplomats said the Chinese had shown themselves disinclined to spare Moscow's feelings where there were major policy differences on vital issues.

The New China News Agency also ran a long item during the Arkhipov visit alleging ill-treatment of prisoners by Soviet troops in Afghanistan.



Reagan's domino theory warnings failed to move congressmen

By William Scally
Reuters

WASHINGTON — In defeating President Reagan's proposal for \$100 million in new aid for rebels fighting the leftist government of Nicaragua, the House of Representatives has rejected his dire warnings of an imminent threat to American security.

The 222-210 vote on Thursday followed weeks of escalating rhetoric by the administration culminating with Reagan's call to help stop "the malignancy in Managua" that could spread and become "a mortal threat to the entire new world."

In a radio broadcast last Sunday he declared: "For our own security the United States must deny the Soviet Union a beachhead in North America."

Reagan has waged an anti-Nicaragua campaign throughout his term in office. In it he has revived a version of the domino theory, once applied to Southeast Asia, specifically over Vietnam, in which countries would fall one by one to Communism.

The campaign led the administration last year to impose a trade embargo on Nicaragua and to terminate a 1946 declaration accepting compulsory jurisdiction by the World Court in the Hague, accusing Nicaragua of using the court as a political weapon.

Despite release over the years of a welter of reports documenting its allegations of a Nicaraguan military build-up, threats to the region and human rights abuses, the administration appears to have won few converts around the world.

Many allies have distanced themselves on the issue or expressed outright opposition.

Other countries in the Americas have publicly opposed U.S. support for the so-called contras — a position seen as a reaction to numerous past American intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

But administration spokesmen, including Secretary of State George Shultz, say that many Latin American leaders are concerned about a Nicaraguan military build-up and speak differently in private.

Reagan's opposition to the Sandinista government is rooted in his ardent anti-Communism.

His administration's support for the contras was at first pictured as an effort to stop Nicaraguan movement of arms to rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Today the stated aim is to bring pressure on the Sandinistas to

open a dialogue that would lead to fulfillment of pledges to establish a pluralistic society with a mixed economy and pursuit of a non-aligned foreign policy.

Reagan has said his aim is not to overthrow the Sandinistas and analysts do not believe that the contras have the ability to do so.

The administration publicly supports the Contadora peace process, in which Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia are seeking a regional settlement, and has ruled out U.S.-Nicaragua bilateral talks.

A series of talks between former special envoy Harry Shlaudeman and Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister Victor Hugo Tinoco made no apparent progress towards resolving differences.

His successor, veteran diplomat Philip Habib, recently visited the region but did not go to Managua.

Superpower summit, in suspense, needs breath of life

By Rodney Pinder
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Despite grim portents, the plan for another U.S.-Soviet summit this year is not quite dead, merely in suspended animation, U.S. officials and analysts say.

Administration officials say they waited in vain for a date from Soviet premier Nikolai Ryzhkov when he met with Secretary of State George Shultz at Olaf Palme's funeral in Sweden last weekend.

Now they say they are looking forward to developments in a couple of weeks' time when veteran ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin returns to Washington for a round of farewells before leaving finally for a new Kremlin leadership job.

"We think the Soviets want a summit, but they haven't yet decided why, how and under what conditions," said an official involved in U.S. policymaking.

Ryzhkov indicated they had not made a decision.

Independent analysts say progress to a second meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could also use some encouraging gestures from a White House distracted for the moment by its fight against a perceived Communist onslaught in Central America.

Reagan says that at their first summit in Geneva last November, Gorbachev agreed verbally to visit the United States this June and that Reagan would journey to Moscow in 1987.

But the warmth in the superpower relationship created by the Geneva "fireside summit" has cooled somewhat in the absence of a firm date and lack of progress in arms control negotiations, the main barometer of U.S.-Soviet affairs.

Since Geneva, Reagan and Gorbachev have appeared to be talking past rather than to each other in public exchanges.

Gorbachev has proposed a plan for global nuclear disarmament by the year 2000 — a suggestion downplayed in Washington as mostly propaganda.

In reply to a Gorbachev proposal for a nuclear test ban, Reagan has invited Soviet scientists to observe the latest U.S. explosions and check out new verification equipment to monitor blast size.

American arms control experts have given bleak reports on U.S.-Soviet negotiations on strategic and medium range missiles and space arms in Geneva since November.

The Stockholm conference on disarmament in Europe ended its ninth session March 14, with NATO delegates less optimistic than hitherto about the prospects of a comprehensive agreement to prevent war in Europe.

NATO and the Warsaw Pact blamed each other for stalling Vienna talks on cutting conventional forces in central Europe.

Gorbachev publicly has linked this year's summit to progress on arms control, while Reagan insists that true to the much-trumpeted "spirit of Geneva" — a fresh superpower start after five years of deep chill — the agreement on the Washington visit was unconditional.

An administration official said Gorbachev had not followed through on his dramatic "year 2000" disarmament plan on January 15 with specifics in the Geneva arms negotiations.

"I think he would like an arms control agreement, but I'm not sure he has decided exactly what it would involve," he said. "We want to see the colour of his money."

U.S. officials express confidence a summit will take place this year — if not June or July, as Reagan would prefer, then possibly after November's congressional elections.

"We're not at the worry point yet," said one. "We always felt a certain amount of patience was required. The world is not going to collapse if Gorbachev decides to come late in the year rather than in the summer."

Few private experts put the chances of a summit this year at more than 50-50.

Mikhail Tsypkin, Sovietologist at the conservative Heritage Foundation, which is credited with influence at the White House, said world expectations had been raised much too high by the Geneva summit.

"I think that all he (Gorbachev) believed he had to say was that he would come to the United States and Reagan would drop SDI — which he is not going to do," he said.

Gorbachev says Reagan's "Star Wars" Strategic Defence Initiative for an anti-missile space shield threatens the Soviet Union with a U.S. first-strike capability and the world with an escalated

arms race. Reagan insists defensive weapons hold the key to peace.

The U.S. nuclear test programme which Moscow wants stopped is devoted largely to experiments with hydrogen bomb-pumped X-ray lasers for SDI battlestar systems.

"They (the Soviets) feel American presidents want summits to help them politically, but they are playing this one too bluntly," Tsypkin added.

John Steinbruner, U.S.-Soviet expert with the Brookings Institution, said Gorbachev had relieved Reagan of considerable domestic political pressure by meeting him in an atmosphere of congeniality last year and had received little in return.

Reagan was "unwilling to give on anything substantive, on nuclear tests or SDI," he said.

"I think it (this year's summit) is in fairly significant trouble," he said.

Dimitri Simes, Soviet affairs expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said Kremlin leaders felt they had been "taken for a ride" by Reagan in Geneva and now were trying to apply pressure for signs of U.S. concessions before agreeing to another big show, this time in the U.S. media hot-house.

He said he believed the administration might show some movement over nuclear test restrictions, or strategic rockets but overall, he added, "no one in this administration is going to be particularly upset" if no summit took place.

Chilean theatre groups stage drama of military rule

By Simon Alterman
Reuters

SANTIAGO — A new play which openly depicts political abduction and murder in Chile illustrates how local theatre groups are overcoming official harassment to put the drama of 12 years of military rule on stage.

A powerful work in its own right, *Lo que Esu en el Aire* (what's in the air) packs a special emotional punch by starring Roberto Parada, a veteran actor whose own son was killed by a death squad last year.

Parada plays a retired music teacher who meets a former student by chance at the airport, only to see him kidnapped by security agents. He cancels his trip and sets out to find the victim and overcome the scepticism of relatives, who prefer to believe that such things do not happen.

"What I saw was an abduction," he tells them, "in a public place, in broad daylight, with violence, with firearms."

That was precisely what teachers and schoolchildren saw last March 29, when Jose Manuel Parada and a fellow Communist Party member Manuel Guerrero were abducted from the front door of Guerrero's school.

They and a third missing Communist, Santiago Nattino, were found a day later in a ditch. Their throats had been slashed.

At the time, Parada was acting in *Primavera Con una Esquina Roja* (spring with a broken corner) an adaptation of a novel by Mario Benedetti which describes the ordeal of exile under military government in Uruguay.

"They told me during the interval," Parada told Reuters. "Everyone thought the play would stop."

"But the show must go on, the play's the thing," he added, breaking into the impeccable English of a former teacher who spent three years in London on a scholarship.

During rehearsals for *Lo que Esu en el Aire*, other members of the Ictus Theatre Company received telephone death threats recalling the triple murder which was attributed by a judge's ruling to the intelligence service of the para-military police.

"I slash, I slash," said the anonymous voices.

Such intimidation, however, is only one of the obstacles that Chilean theatre groups have had to face since the 1973 coup which brought General Augusto Pinochet to power.

Value added tax (VAT) of 20 per cent is payable on box office takings unless the education ministry revises the script in advance

and rules that it is cultural.

Ictus pays VAT on its productions. So too do the producers of accidental death of an anarchist, a farce by Italian author Dario Fo in which a prisoner falls to his death from an open window during interrogation by police.

The Imagin Theatre Company faced another onslaught last year when it created *La Meka*, a play about a "fictional" country called *Mahometania*, ruled by King Condor, a monarch named after the giant bird of prey found in the Chilean Andes.

Shortly before the opening night, the theatre was visited by representatives of the health ministry, the labour ministry and the tax service and the owners of the building were encouraged to end the lease by an interior ministry official.

Diplomats here say that as with opposition magazines, the gov-

ernment prefers harassment to banning critical theatre outright because the audiences are relatively small and are already committed opponents, while the political cost of censorship is very high.

"The government puts up with us because they know we have tremendous resonance," Parada said. "They can take on the politicians, they have to fight the politicians, but it's more dangerous with us."

State-run television channels are even forced to use well-known leftist actors for their soap operas in order to ensure reasonable audiences, although an unpublished blacklist keeps the worst political undesirables off the screens.

"Theatre people were and are generally leftists, or let's say progressives," said Parada. "The coup affected us deeply. Many people had to go into exile, many

were arrested, some died... But the theatre never stopped."

At first the language of criticism was cryptic. Now such issues as the more than 600 political detainees listed as missing are treated openly, as in *Lo que Esu en el Aire*.

How does it feel to go on stage, night after night, and re-live the drama of your son's murder?

"It's terrible, of course," said Parada, "but one does it because one feels an obligation. For us the important thing is that this should not be forgotten, that it shouldn't become routine."

As Parada's character says at the end of the play:

"I, Exequiel Soto, a music teacher my whole life, declare that I saw the kidnap of my ex-pupil, Emilio Farias. I saw it. It happened. And I, Exequiel Soto, will maintain that eternally, whatever may be the consequences of the truth."

Canada's oil capital stunned by world oil price nosedive

Reuters

CALGARY, Alberta — Calgary, the oil capital of Canada, has been stunned by the swiftness of the world oil price decline which has abruptly ended optimism about economic rejuvenation prevailing just a few weeks ago.

Fears are rising, and this western city of 620,000 residents, sometimes described as one part each of the U.S. cities Houston, Dallas and Denver, is braced for the worst.

"We're going broke," one oil company executive lamented, while another said: "Some companies have reached the point of no return."

As recently as Jan. 31, Calgaryans were feeling a confidence unknown since the previous worldwide energy boom collapsed

four years ago.

Drilling rigs and building cranes, twin harbingers of good times in Alberta's vast oilfields, had returned to Calgary as signs of a sustainable economic expansion continued despite the downward drift of oil prices.

Employment was up, houses in the \$72,000 to \$180,000 price range were selling again, plans for gleaming futuristic new office towers were coming off the shelf and even the French Meridien Hotel chain was talking about building a luxury hotel here.

Economists felt events were changing too fast to draw conclusions about the oil price slide so they remained reluctant to revise optimistic forecasts until mid-February, when oil prices dropped below \$14 a barrel.

"The optimists now would be

manic depressive," one oil industry observer commented.

The price of the U.S. benchmark crude, West Texas Intermediate, fell by nearly \$1 on Feb. 28 to \$13.25, the lowest since January 1978.

Analysts believe the drop in oil prices in the past two months, which has also put severe pressure on the Canadian dollar, may have already cost Alberta's energy industry \$432 million in lost investment.

"If the price of oil stays at \$15 dollars (\$10.8), we'll see about three billion (\$2.16 billion) in cash flow taken out of the industry," one analyst predicted.

The scenario is a sharp reversal from the beginning of 1986, when most oil and gas companies continued drilling at almost record pace.

This boosted January house sales in Calgary by 23 per cent from a year ago and sent people flocking to sign up again for courses to become estate agents.

No one expected a revival of the great energy boom years of the late 1970s when housing prices, rents and wages were going up faster than inflation, all driven by a steady rise in oil prices that everyone assumed would never end.

In fact, many Albertans said they would like nothing better than to forget those giddy years and settle into a sedate, predictable growth pattern.

Although recovery was late and relatively weak, Alberta's economy in the past four years had come a long way from the depths of the recession when unemployment topped 15 per cent

and mortgage foreclosure notices were commonplace.

In January, unemployment was down to about 8.4 per cent in Calgary and officials predicted that 1986 could even be better than last year's relatively good overall performance.

Such predictions now seem hopelessly outdated and while no formal downward revisions are available yet, the province now appears headed into another recession.

"It's terrible but it's going to get a lot worse," one official commented.

"The axe is about to fall almost universally at just about every company," predicts Richard Gussella, president of Sceptre Resources. Ominous signals of a new down-

turn for the oil industry were recent pessimistic announcements by several Calgary-based companies including Sulpetro, a major energy firm, which decided to sell a portion of its Canadian oil and gas properties to help survive the sharp decline in oil prices.

Sulpetro also imposed a "moratorium on all but the most essential capital expenditures."

Dome Petroleum, perhaps Canada's best known corporate debtor, has refused so far to say how its \$3.89-billion debt restructuring has been threatened by the oil price drop.

But analysts believe Dome and some other Canadian oil firms with heavy debts are suffering severe financial strains and will be forced to seek new concessions from their banks.

Jordan pays tribute to IDB, urges aid to people under occupation

(Continued from page 1)

them to abandon their homeland.

Jordan, due to its geographic location and national commitment and strong historical links with the Palestine problem, finds it necessary to warn against this danger and its dimensions. The Israeli measures are part of a comprehensive plan to obliterate Arab and Islamic existence and therefore Jordan finds it necessary to go on supporting the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their freedom.

In this endeavour, Jordan must be backed by Arab and Islamic countries with all forms of material and financial assistance.

Your meeting here today bears a great significance, going beyond an economic endeavour to embody measures and means that would enable the Arab and Islamic nations to confront challenges threatening their very existence. Therefore you are invited to unite your efforts and offer further help to your brothers in the occupied Arab lands.

The IDB has been instrumental in financing numerous projects in Arab and Islamic countries and its

assistance was an expression of deep commitment to the principles of the Islamic faith, which calls for assisting needy societies.

Most recently the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has refused to extend financial help to Sudan, which is now suffering from drought and famine and shortage of food and other basic needs. The IDB is urged to take speedy steps in cooperation with other financial institutions to extend all possible help to Sudan to help it face the situation and tide it over the present difficult circumstances.

I am pleased to pay tribute to the IDB which offered urgent help to Sudan and I hope that further relief help will be channelled to Sudan in cooperation with other Islamic institutions, which should adopt a well-planned strategy to handle such pitiable situations whenever they arise.

Economic cooperation among Arab-Islamic nations is a necessity in view of the present difficult circumstances, and Islamic solidarity is of paramount importance if economic hardships are to be overcome.

The IDB's assistance in financing economic projects and in

helping to build an integrated banking and financial system based on Islamic principles are quite essential for helping Islamic nations fulfil their aspirations.

Ten years have passed on the establishment of the IDB and I seize this opportunity to praise the great achievements made by the bank over this relatively short period. I am happy to express Jordan's appreciation to the IDB for its help that enabled our country to carry out its projects.

I also express my deep appreciation to the IDB's sound system, which enabled it to acquire a leading status among world financial institutions through its constant help to its members and free-interest loans granted for social and economic projects.

IDB has been helping Islamic nations to explore new opportunities for investments and trade and has been facilitating the flow of capital among Islamic countries.

I would like to refer to the agricultural development problem from which most developing nations suffer because this problem has now assumed dangerous proportions and this problem requires

effective solutions.

To give you an idea about this problem it is enough to know that Islamic nations' population form nearly 15 per cent of the world population, but unfortunately they only grow a mere nine per cent of the world's food supplies. These Islamic nations imported 120 million tonnes of food in 1981, but the gross shortage of food in these countries is worth nearly \$16 billion because they continue to import some \$30 billion and only export \$14 billion worth of food annually.

Despite the fact that we feel the effects of a deteriorating agricultural situation in the Islamic World and believe that there is a dire need of intensive efforts to develop agricultural sectors, we find that the Islamic Nations have not exerted sufficient efforts and have not carried out sound and coordinated plans to ease the food problem.

Many have pinned hopes on resolutions adopted by the Arab summit meeting held in Amman in 1980 because these resolutions focused attention on research in economic endeavours and urged

Arab and Islamic nations to adopt a unified economic strategy. The summit allocated assistance to the less developed countries to bridge the gap between their economy and those of the rich Arab countries. Unfortunately these resolutions have not been implemented in full and many poor Arab countries like Sudan are now faced with chronic economic difficulties.

In this respect I pay tribute to the IDB's efforts to support economic development schemes but I really feel the need for finding measures that can ensure a constant financial backing to the agricultural sectors.

I refer to a symposium on food security in the Arab and developing nations which was held by the Arab Thought Forum in the past month in Amman. This symposium has agreed to entrust specialists with the task of studying comprehensive agricultural projects to be submitted to finance institutions.

An IDB spokesman said on Saturday that IDB has approved \$157.9 million Islamic dinars (\$172.5 million) in project aid to

several member countries, with Jordan getting the top allocation of \$37.6 million.

This raised the total aid extended by the 43-member IDB, financial wing of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), to \$534 million since last September.

The new allocations were approved by the executive directors of the IDB.

The aid to Jordan included an \$11.6 million contribution to finance an iron foundry project and \$346 million to the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, raising IDB's total equity in the company to \$13.6 million.

The bank also allocated \$5 million each to Jordan, Bangladesh, Morocco and Pakistan to finance crude oil imports, \$10.5 million to North Yemen to buy oil products and \$10 million to Iraq to purchase palm oil.

Libya will receive \$14 million for a power project, Somalia \$4.5 million for building a road, Algeria \$25 million for importing intermediate industrial goods and Tunisia \$5 million for paper pulp import.

Delegates stress need to maintain IDB role in Islamic development

(Continued from page 1)

a data bank for benefitting the Islamic World through its branches in member nations.

The economic system prevailing in the European Community should serve as an example to be followed by the Islamic nations in terms of coordination of economic policies, the minister said.

Referring to advances in the world of industry, electronics and computers and the exchange of data and information, the minister said the developed world was moving ahead in this field while Islamic nations are still lagging behind with underdeveloped industries. He said that Islamic nations "have to invest more in dev-

eloping brains and human resources rather than investing more in machinery and industry and the situation calls for speedy absorption of modern technology in educating the Islamic communities. The minister called on the IDB to help generalise the use of computers in Arab schools with the purpose of creating a new generation that can interact with developments in science and technology. Given the vast wealth of oil the Islamic world can take big strides towards development, he said.

IDB Chairman Ahmad Mohammad Ali voiced appreciation to Jordan for hosting the conference and said the IDB was proud of what Jordan has achieved in

socio-economic development. Dr. Ali referred in particular to Jordan's role in helping Sudan and alleviating the sufferings of the victims of drought and famine in that country.

Dr. Ali presented the IDB's annual report giving the total amount of loans granted to member nations over the past 10 years.

Last year the IDB received revenues from its operations amounting to \$64 million, up from \$35.5 million in the previous year. The IDB participated in the financing of 95 projects in Islamic countries, mainly in industry and agriculture during the past year, Dr. Ali said.

He said the IDB also helped to finance 19 projects in cooperation

with 35 other financial institutions in 1985, pledging \$142 million in all these projects.

The IDB has offered a total of \$721 million to help finance projects jointly with 91 other institutions since its establishment in 1975, Dr. Ali added.

Dr. Ali said the IDB plans to bolster its relations with other international institutions and is about to sign an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on data exchange and agreements with the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation on matters connected with financing and other issues of common concern.

Addressing the conference was also Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Pirzadeh urged IDB governments to adopt a plan designed to bolster cooperation among Islamic nations.

Cooperation among OIC member nations has now become essential in view of the difficult global economic circumstances affecting the Islamic countries, Mr. Pirzadeh said.

In this respect, he said, the IDB can play a leading role and can help Islamic nations to develop economically and promote their trade.

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OPEC talks to continue until accord is reached

(Continued from page 1)

oil exploration were also being greatly reduced all over the world. These factors, he said, would ultimately reduce oil output and boost prices.

OPEC ministers have been meeting in Geneva over the last seven days in an attempt to reach an agreement on cutting their oil output to boost world oil prices. The organisation have decided to boost world oil prices to \$28 a barrel from around \$15 at the present. They have not yet agreed on how these cuts will be made (See page 7).

Last month, four African oil producers created their own organisation but vowed to avoid conflict with OPEC to which they also belong. The founders of the African Hydrocarbon Association (AHA) are Algeria, Nigeria, Libya and Gabon. The four African states have reaffirmed "the necessity to reinforce the OPEC with a view to appropriate action to protect their common interests."

Dr. Abdullah said AHA was first misunderstood as an "African" OPEC.

"AHA is only an organisation which aims at helping smaller oil producers with the view that anything to weaken OPEC is bound to be disadvantageous to developing countries," he said.

The OPEC Fund extends soft and long-term loans to developing countries all over the world with an emphasis on the poorest countries. The fund has so far given assistance to 82 countries.

Dr. Abdullah said the fund focuses on underdeveloped countries. He pointed out that out of the 36 countries considered underdeveloped, 26 are African states.

Dr. Abdullah said 75 per cent of the fund's portfolio is interest free and some of its loans are payable over periods extending to 20 years.

The OPEC Fund financed the Agaba Thermal Power Station. Dr. Abdullah said Jordan had made a request for the financing

the expansion of the station. "We are in touch with the Jordanian authorities to finance this expansion," he said, adding that Jordan has requested \$10 million for this project.

Dr. Abdullah, who served as executive director for the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

billions. Although this is the size of the Reagan administration's request to Congress for the year beginning next Oct. 1, the U.S. legislature would normally be expected to whittle that down.

Diplomats said Mr. Shultz was likely to repeat assurances given to Turkey by other Defence and State Department officials that the administration will try to increase supplies of defence material at special terms to help meet the demand.

Unlike Greece, however, Turkey has given no sign of wanting

for about 11 years, took over as director general of the OPEC Fund in August 1983.

He said that the fund coordinates its operations with other Arab funds and financial institutions including ones like the Islamic Development Bank.

The American facilities removed, but thinks its role as a guardian of NATO's southern flank, and the cost of maintaining its largest army in Europe, are not appreciated.

On Friday, Mr. Shultz held what he called incisive and productive talks in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand.

He told reporters the talks covered a broad range of issues but gave no details.

"As always with President Mitterrand they were incisive, productive and interesting talks," Mr. Shultz said.

Unlike Greece, however, Turkey has given no sign of wanting

Suicides plague model science city

By Masami Ono

TSUCHIURA, Japan — The suicide in January of a young scientist at a national research institute brings to nine the number of residents of Tsuchiura Science City who have killed themselves in the past two years.

Yoshinobu Ogawa, 27, hung himself January 20 in a bachelors' dormitory in the vast, new man-made city. He worked at the Public Works Research Institute and left a note saying that he had lost confidence in everything.

Ogawa was the third employee at the institute within a month to commit suicide. The others were a member of the clerical staff and a researcher on loan from a private company.

Tsuchiura Science City earned international fame last year as the site of an international scientific exposition known as Expo '85. Spread across 2,700 hectares, the city encompasses 46 research and educational institutions with a total research staff of about 7,000.

Most of these institutions were moved from Tokyo in the early 1970s, and more than 3,000 researchers still commute from Tokyo approximately two hours away.

Because Tsuchiura has plenty of green, wide-open spaces in comparison to Tokyo, it might seem ideal for scientific research. Yet the incidence of suicide there seems to be above the national average.

Many people explain the incidence as a tragedy of an artificial, man-made city. They say that commuting between home and work at a research institute in Tsuchiura makes life monotonous and offers little chance for warm contact among residents.

At Tsuchiura, rows of modern research institutes and high-rise apartment buildings are systematically laid out on vast sites with playgrounds and plazas surrounding them. Additional greenery and space is provided by at least 90 parks. But the end result is long distances between buildings.

"Great distances between structures tend to obstruct contact and communication between human beings. Under such circumstances, it is impossible to expect smooth human relationships," according to Susumu Oda, a professor of psychology at Tsuchiura University, one of the city's two universities.

Yoshiko Inoue, the leader of Komatsu, a theatrical company in Tokyo, compares Tsuchiura to Canberra, the capital of Australia, where she lived for about a month ten years ago.

"Canberra bears a marked resemblance to Tsuchiura Science City in its abundance of vegetation, water and parks," she said. Life there may seem very comfortable, but human beings cannot live long in a park. Every weekend, there is a massive exodus of Canberra citizens to the old city of Sydney. It's not nature alone that soothes the human mind. The history and even the filth of an old city are also requisites."

Some local researchers, however, attribute the high suicide

rate to the dramatic changes in the scientific research environment within the past decade.

Before the national research institutes were relocated to Tsuchiura in the early 1970s, Japan was enjoying an economic boom and budgets for scientific research grew yearly.

Then the country was hit by the oil crisis of 1973 and was forced to slow down its economic growth. Government appropriations for scientific research were an easy target for administrative retrenchment. Except in the sphere of high technology, such appropriations have been shrinking in real terms ever since.

One Tsuchiura researcher lamented: "If two teams are engaged in similar research and one of them makes slow progress, its research budget is cut more often than not. Once a year, researchers must report on the progress of their work. This is a very trying occasion for those whose research is not making smooth headway. The stronger the sense of responsibility they have, the more troubled they are."

Joint research projects involving more than one institute are also changing the situation. A leading researcher at one Tsuchiura institute, who committed suicide last year, was responsible for one such project. He could not exercise strong leadership in guiding his project team because he preferred to conduct steady research at his own pace, according to his colleagues. He appeared to have felt responsible for the slow progress of the joint project, they said.

A few scientists at Tsuchiura are slowly beginning to combat isolation and frustration by seeking contact with the outside community through participation in various social and civic activities, such as environmental-protection groups.

One such scientist, Norio Takeuchi, a chief researcher at the Chemical Technology Institute, bluntly criticised the way of life of most Tsuchiura scientists. "After all," he said, "researchers in a closed academic city are not mentally grown up. Contacts with outside community groups will make them readily understand that worrying about such things as their posts and the results of research is of little significance."

"But it will still be a considerable time before all 7,000 researchers become mentally grown-up in the true sense of the term," and Tsuchiura Science City develops into a mature city."

In addition to the three recent suicides at the Public Works Research Institute, six other suicides at Tsuchiura since September 1983 have included a chief researcher at the National Research Laboratory of Metrology, a data-processing section chief at the Tsuchiura Space Centre, a chief researcher at the Research Institute for Polymers and Textiles, an Ibaraki University professor living in Tsuchiura, a research laboratory chief at the Meteorological Research Institute and a researcher at the National Institute for Research in Inorganic Materials — Asahi News Service, Tokyo.

Royal wedding for Sarah, redheaded blueblood

By Ronald Thomson
Reuters

LONDON — Actresses and models flitted through the love life of Britain's Prince Andrew, but Sarah Ferguson was the only girlfriend with the blueblood pedigree deemed fitting for a royal princess.

Her path to marriage with one of the world's most eligible bachelors was personally smoothed by Princess Diana, wife of the future King Charles III.

Flame-haired Sarah, known as "fergie" to her friends, was one of Andrew's childhood playmates but sources at the Royal Court said they did not become really interested in each other until June last year.

That was when Diana suggested Sarah as an ideal escort for the playboy prince at Queen Elizabeth's annual house party in Windsor Castle during the Royal Ascot races.

Six months later a royal romance was in full bloom between the vivacious young businesswoman and the dashing naval officer, fourth in line for the throne. Both are 26.

The queen, apparently as keen as Princess Diana to see the relationship cemented, invited Sarah to join Andrew for weekends at the Rural Sandringham estate and at Buckingham Palace itself.

The love pact finally seemed sealed in February when Sarah visited Andrew's frigate HMS *Argentine* in company with Diana, who told her future sister-in-law as the cameras clicked: "For goodness sake, keep smiling."

It sounded like an insider's tip from the lady who has rarely been out of the public eye since her 1981 marriage to Prince Charles. Then Sarah showed up for an

official photocall with Diana and Charles at the Swiss resort of Klosters where the heir to the throne and his wife had gone skiing.

From that moment on the British media spread the word

Everton falls to Luton, Liverpool draws even

LONDON (R) — Everton's English soccer championship hopes suffered a severe jolt Saturday, as much-improved Luton beat them 2-1, leaving closest challengers Liverpool, 6-0 conquerors of Oxford, level on points at the top of the First Division.

Kevin Richardson's 46th minute goal had seemed enough to keep Everton in command but Steve Foster struck twice in four minutes, leaving Everton defeated in the league for the first time since December 14.

Third-placed Manchester United were held 2-2 by neighbours Manchester City, while Chelsea and Arsenal remained in contention by beating Southampton and Coventry respectively.

League Cup finalists Oxford were simply not in the same class as Liverpool on their first visit to Anfield.

Ian Rush started the scoring spree in the first minute and added the fifth goal — his 25th of the season — in the 70th. Mark Lawrenson, Ronnie Whelan and Jan Molby, twice, were also on target.

Everton, like Liverpool able to complete a League and Football Association (F.A.) Cup double, were set to extend their unbeaten run to 19 games when Foster headed goals in the 81st and 85th minutes. Luton's victory went some way towards avenging their

F.A. Cup quarter-final defeat by Everton last week.

Second half goals by Clive Wilson and Arthur Albiston gave Manchester City an unexpected draw in the 108th meeting between the two neighbours.

Colin Gibson had fired United ahead from a Norman Whiteside free kick as early as the second minute. Gordon Strachan added a second via a 58th minute penalty.

The outcome left United three points behind the top two clubs. Chelsea did well to take maximum points from Southampton who had welcomed back Joe Jordan after five months' injury absence. Colin Pates scored the only goal in the 62nd minute.

An own goal by Coventry's Jim McNally sent Arsenal on the way to their fourth successive league win. Tony Woodcock added a second in the 50th minute then Martin Hayes completed the scoring a minute from time.

Sheffield Wednesday, knocked out of the F.A. Cup by West Ham, were unable to gain revenge in their visit to Upton Park. Master marksman Frank McA-

veanie pounced on a loose ball in the sixth minute to register his 22nd goal of the season and the only goal of the game.

The victory left West Ham one point behind sixth-placed Wednesday.

Leicester visited Nottingham Forest having lost their previous four league games there — and met the same fate in a seven-goal thriller.

Alan Smith fired the visitors ahead in the fifth minute, Ian Bowyer equalised moments later and Franz Carr put Forest in front nine minutes before halftime.

Tony Sealy levelled, Nigel Clough put Forest back in command, before Smith made the score 3-3 in the 69th minute. It was left to Clough to settle the issue in the 89th either.

Little separated Newcastle and Tottenham either. Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle scored first but Billy Whitehurst levelled while Hoddle was off the pitch for treatment. Chris Waddle put Tottenham back on top two minutes after the interval before Newcastle's John Anderson made the final score 2-2 midway through the second half.

Relegation-threatened Ipswich beat rock-bottom West Bromwich 1-0 at home. Terry Butcher was on target in the 67th minute.

Milla wins MVP award

CAIRO (R) — Cameroon's striker Roger Milla won the "Best Player" award in the African Nations' Soccer Cup championship which ended here Friday, an African Football Confederation (CAF) spokesman said Saturday.

Milla, a 33-year-old St. Etienne forward with five goals to his credit in the two-week tournament, also won the unofficial top scorer trophy, The Golden Boots.

Ivory Coast, who finished third behind champions Egypt and runners-up Cameroon, had been awarded the Fair Play trophy by the Cairo-based CAF, the spokesman said.

Milla's fifth goal of the championship was scored Friday in the penalty shootout, which Egypt won 5-4 to take the Cup.

But unlike previous performances in Alexandria, Milla

rarely threatened the hosts' defence or goalkeeper Thabet Al Battal and never seemed to settle down to play his own game.

"My most precious goal of the tournament was the one against Morocco," Milla told Reuters.

It was in the dying seconds of that Group B match in Alexandria on March 11 when Milla saved the day for Cameroon with a perfect lob which pulled the scores level at 1-1.

Milla, whose two-year contract with St. Etienne expires at the end of this season, said: "It was the best thing that happened to me in my entire football career — a lifetime thrill."

Married with one child, Milla said he planned to stay in the game for a further two to three years before returning to Cameroon.

It ain't easy to reach Toledo

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The Soviets came by way of Montreal. The Australians via Los Angeles. The Mongolians somehow ended up in Paris, while the Cubans had to come through Mexico City.

The Egyptians? They're apparently lost. It's been two weeks since anyone has heard from them.

Teams from the five countries began arriving in Toledo on Thursday for the World Cup of International Wrestling, which begins Saturday. A squad from the United States completes the list of competitors from six continents.

The wrestling may turn out to be the easy part, after what it took to get the teams here.

"We got a call from the Mongolians this morning," tournament organizer Joe Scalzo, Jr. said as he waited at Toledo Express Airport Thursday night for the Soviets, whose flight from Montreal had been delayed.

"They were in Paris and wanted to know how to get here."

As it turned out, the Mongolians didn't have the visas they were supposed to pick up in Moscow, so Scalzo arranged the papers through the U.S. Embassy in Paris. Mongolia is a Soviet satellite.

The Cubans were supposed to receive their visas Wednesday morning in Havana before they boarded a flight to Mexico City, since there are no direct flights from Cuba to the United States. Scalzo said.

The papers never materialized. Nor did they receive them in Mexico City, so they flew to Miami and received permission to enter the country. But then the Cubans missed their flight to Toledo.

Egypt savours African triumph

By Hanzwa Hendawi
Reporter

CAIRO — Egypt Saturday basked in their first soccer title in 27 years after edging defending champions Cameroon in a nail-biting penalty shootout to win the 15th African Nations' Cup final.

"We are Africa's football masters," exulted the government's top sports official Abdul Ahad Gamal Eddin. "Our triumph is well deserved and priceless."

The Egyptian Football Federation announced that each player would pick up a \$6,024 bonus. More than 120,000 spectators led by President Hosni Mubarak turned out at Cairo's International Stadium Friday to watch the final and many more joined in street celebrations which lasted until the early hours Saturday.

Pictures of Mubarak handing the cup to captain Mustapha Abdou were splashed on front pages. "Congratulations to Egypt," proclaimed the weekly newspaper Akhbar Al Yum in bold headlines.

Egypt last won the title 1959 on

home ground. Two years earlier, they took the inaugural championship in Khartoum. But success eluded them after their second successive victory, even when they had home advantage again.

Egypt, bouncing back from a 1-0 loss to Senegal in their opening match two weeks ago, dominated play against Cameroon but were unable to capitalise on several scoring chances.

They were tied 0-0 at the end of regular and extra time before going on to clinch the title 5-4 on penalties.

The 33-year-old Abdou, taking his turn when the two sides were drawn 2-2, appeared to have committed a lifetime blunder when Thomas Nkono saved his shot.

The agony of Abdou and the crowd followed short-lived when Isaac Sinkot followed suit with a shot that landed safely in the hands of Egyptian goalkeeper Thabet Al Battal.

Tied at 4-4, Ashraf Qasim put Egypt ahead again. The title was theirs when 20-year-old Cameroon midfielder Kana Biyik shot

wide and fell to the ground in tears.

The West Africans were unable to match the remarkable form they had shown earlier in their campaign to retain the title they won in 1984.

Cameroon finished top of their B Group ahead of Zambia and World Cup finalists Morocco and Algeria and later reached the final at the expense of Ivory Coast.

While Egypt's strikers continued to squander one chance after another, Ali Shihata, Hamadah Sidqi and Rabia Yassin played a towering game in defence to keep Cameroon's forwards Roger Milla, Louis Paul Mfede and Ernest Ebongue at bay.

The West Africans gained some consolation with Milla, top scorer of the tournament, voted best player. Milla, who plays for French club St. Etienne, described it as "a lifetime thrill."

In the Egyptian camp, the two-week championship underscored the brilliance of striker Taber Abu Zaid, who settled the issue against Morocco last Monday with an irresistible free kick.

American upsets Witt for skating title

By Jennifer Parmelee
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA, Switzerland — Debi Thomas had been waiting a long time for this night — to end.

"Today has lasted for four weeks," an exhausted but elated Thomas said Friday night after dethroning East German Katarina Witt as the world women's figure skating champion. "I'm so happy it's over."

"It's a sigh of relief to have the season end like this."

Witt won the long programme, the finale of the women's competition at the World Figure Skating Championships. But Thomas, the U.S. National Champion, was far enough ahead after Wednesday's short programme that

her second-place showing Friday clinched the title.

She became the first black skater ever to win a world championship.

Thomas, who was pacing back and forth down the corridor before her performance, allowed that Witt's superior skating Friday night to the score from "West Side Story" got to her nerves.

"It was kind of hard to skate after Katarina, and when I heard her marks, I thought, 'Well you're going to go out and have fun now.'" The Stanford University pre-med student from San Jose, Calif., said. "But I learned toughness from it."

"She's very tough when she's under pressure, like tonight," Thomas' coach, Alex McGowan, said.

Thomas then went out and skated an elegant, athletic programme to Duke Ellington and ballet music. It wasn't as glittery as Witt's, which earned a pair of perfect scores, but it was good enough.

If she got a crash-course in poise from Witt, she got an extra boost from teammate Brian Boitano, who won the men's world title the night before.

"After watching Brian yesterday, I really got inspired," she said.

After her performance was finished, Thomas was beaming on the ice, and McGowan on the sidelines was punching his fists in the air in victory. They knew they had won, and the Americans in the crowd waved the stars and stripes in celebration.

"I don't believe it," Thomas said as she left the ice. "I even landed that double axel."

Witt finished second overall, while another American, Tiffany Chin, wound up third.

Chin, the 1985 U.S. national champion and bronze medal-winner at last year's World Championships, maintained her third-place spot overall with a sprightly programme featuring lots of jumps and a spectacular spin combination at the end.

But she was pushed aside in the long programme by the airborne Canadian Elisabeth Manley, who put on the night's cleanest series of triple jumps to win four of the top nine scores.

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- Woollen old-style carpet, handwoven worth JD 250 as a gift from the fair
- Two brass barbeques each worth JD 60 as gift from the fair
- Silk carpet with synthetic fibre, hand woven worth JD 150 as a gift from the Turkish fair
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Own initiative and foreign aid in the development of Lysia village economy and society — a report on research in Burkina Faso (Upper Volta), 1982-1984, with slides.
At 5 p.m., March 23, 1986 at Lecture Hall, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University.

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(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

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RAGHADAN
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LOSIN' IT.
(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema
OPERA

HOLLYWOOD HOT TUBS
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Soviets seek closer contact with GATT

GENEVA (AP) — The Soviet Union on Friday made an unusual public appeal for becoming an observer to the 90-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a system of rules seeking to liberalise world trade.

Mr. Mikhail Pankine, head of the department of international economic organisations in the Soviet foreign trade ministry, told a news conference that the Soviets wanted to "establish closer contacts" with the GATT.

He said Soviet representatives had made unofficial contact with GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel, the GATT Secretariat and GATT member countries over the past three years to express interest in becoming observers.

Observer status is granted after a consensus decision of the GATT Council, which includes representatives from all member countries who meet about nine times a year.

Countries with observer status may attend many important GATT meetings and functions, and speak if invited by the chairman, but they may not participate in any consensus decision-making. The GATT Council has 18 observers, including China since November 1984.

Soviet Bloc countries Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania are members of GATT.

Countries seeking observer status normally put out unofficial feelers before making a formal bid, to ensure that they have enough support to be approved.

The Soviets have not yet formally applied, and their overtures to the GATT have until now been quiet. "It is a surprise that they said it publicly this time," said one GATT source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Pankine said the Soviets were "very much encouraged" by the positive reaction from many GATT members to their interest in being observers.

But he said "some important trading countries have not shown the political will to react positively" to the Soviet overtures. He declined to name the countries.

During a GATT Council meeting last week, the United States and the 12 Common Market countries said they did not want to consider any requests for observer status until the council completes discussions on what rights observers should have. Those discussions were expected to finish before a new round of global trade talks takes place.

Mr. Pankine said the Soviets felt it was "essential" that they be able to observe a new round of global trade talks, which may be held later this year or early next year. A committee is currently working under the auspices of the GATT to prepare an agenda for a possible new round.

A meeting of GATT member trade ministers scheduled for September will decide whether a new round will actually take place, and if so, when.

The GATT, formed in 1948, is the world's only multilateral treaty laying down rules for international trade. It also functions as a forum for member countries, which represent more than four-fifths of world trade, to air trade disputes.

De Cuellar orders more spending cuts

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, citing a financial emergency that demanded immediate action, ordered further cost-cutting measures Friday, including a hiring freeze.

In a message to U.N. employees, he said the world body faced a \$100 million shortfall this year, largely because of large-scale withholding of member states' assessments for the \$830 million budget.

The United States, which is assessed at 25 per cent of the budget and wants this reduced to 20 per cent, is among those in arrears. Mr. Perez de Cuellar discussed the crisis with President Reagan, Vice President George Bush and secretary of state, Mr. George Shultz in Washington Friday.

The secretary general earlier this year ordered a saving of \$15 million through the curtailment of staff travel, including his own, and overtime.

Friday, he announced these additional measures for a further \$15 million saving:

- A freeze in recruitment, non-extension of staff beyond the retirement age of 60, suspension of representation allowances for senior officials, a further 10 per cent reduction in funds budgeted for overtime, suspension of promotions for six months, deferment of cost-of-living adjustments, and "a number of housekeeping economies and adjustments" that were not otherwise identified.

He said each \$1 million saved was equal to 20 posts in an organisation where 75 per cent of costs go for staff.

Fed's vice chairman resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mr. Preston Martin, vice chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (Fed) and frequently mentioned as an aspirant for the top job, announced Friday he will resign from the board next month and return to private business.

Mr. Martin, the longest-serving of President Ronald Reagan's four appointees to the governing board of the United States central bank, told a news conference he was leaving the board.

Mr. Martin declined to say whether he had decided to step aside because the top job had not been offered to him, telling reporters, "I see no reason to pursue that line of hypothetical questioning... there is no vacancy."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 15, '86 and ending Wednesday, March 19, 1986 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking & financial institutions					
Jordan Islamic Bank	2282	5147	2.270	2.250	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	7755	17928	2.300	2.320	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	1768	2672	1.530	1.500	1.000
Housing Bank	4357	6694	1.500	1.520	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1765	3763	2.050	2.160	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	450000	697500	1.550	1.550	1.000
Petra Bank	18320	48181	2.650	2.630	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	4913	149200	31.200	31.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	266	4836	21.250	18.300	5.000
Arab Bank	2230	298131	135.50	136.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	15510	40257	2.590	2.590	1.000
Jordan Finance House	17550	14918	0.840	0.850	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	15848	16466	1.020	1.040	1.000
Islamic Investment House	6175	5728	0.930	0.910	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	8293	5920	1.220	1.210	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation	35098	13157	0.870	0.880	1.000
National Financial Investments	5930	7294	1.210	1.230	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	2988	2127	0.720	0.710	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	12125	14890	1.230	1.200	1.000
Insurance					
Jordan Insurance	4194	42002	11.300	11.300	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	2348	5992	2.530	2.600	1.000
REFCO Insurance	1665	882	1.050	1.030	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	2670	3738	1.410	1.400	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	7300	16981	2.400	2.600	1.000
Al Arab Insurance & Reinsurance	4250	3475	0.830	0.810	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	3900	3776	0.960	0.960	1.000
Petra Insurance	400	200	0.500	0.500	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	460	392	0.880	0.850	1.000
General Insurance	743	1334	2.000	1.950	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	15000	15000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Services & industries					
Jordan Electric Power	14655	22209	1.480	1.530	1.000
National Shipping Lines	1375	977	0.710	0.710	1.000
Jordan Dairy	5143	5972	1.170	1.170	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	5173	16694	3.210	3.210	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	20713	14579	0.700	0.710	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	1868	4928	2.620	2.640	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	2591	5626	2.210	2.150	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	15892	30209	1.960	1.910	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries	4645	5924	1.230	1.300	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	1315	5479	4.130	4.170	1.000
Alladin Industries	2734	1870	0.700	0.680	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press	200	134	0.700	0.670	1.000
Publishing and Distribution	38263	33310	0.880	0.870	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	30950	12064	0.380	0.390	1.000
Arab International Hotels	2835	10685	3.550	3.850	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	54651	54452	0.920	1.020	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	8225	10803	1.340	1.300	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	4050	4043	0.990	1.000	1.000
Chemical Industries	7600	5046	0.680	0.670	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches	3615	5524	1.500	1.510	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development & Investment	122375	157190	1.200	1.300	1.000
National Steel Industries	3372	6587	1.950	1.950	1.000
Jordan Tanning	927	669	0.700	0.730	1.000
Jordan Leasing Equipment	500	838	1.650	1.700	1.000
General Mining	8000	2461	0.300	0.320	1.000
Arab Paper Converting & Trading	6749	1860	0.780	0.780	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	4584	30348	6.620	6.630	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	22200	6216	0.280	0.280	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	900	763	0.850	0.840	1.000
Woolen Industries	176	440	2.450	2.500	1.000
Jordan Fertiliser	7183	6274	0.900	0.850	1.000
National Industries	100	105	1.050	1.050	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	1550	868	0.590	0.560	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries					
Grand total	1061269	1919005			

OPEC struggles in vain to reach accord on output

GENEVA (AP) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) negotiations on proposed cuts in oil production were adjourned after three hours Saturday with no agreements, a spokesman for the organisation said.

Mr. James Audu told reporters the oil ministers would resume deliberations Sunday with no indication of whether a conclusion could be reached then. He declined to say why they decided not to hold their usual afternoon session Saturday.

Several delegates, speaking privately, suggested later that there had been no signs of a breakthrough in the morning session and that the ministers were tired after seven days of complicated, tense and nearly continuous bargaining.

The talks have lasted longer than any OPEC conference since the ministers spent two weeks in March 1983 thrashing out an agreement to cut oil prices by 55 a barrel and restrict their output.

On Friday, the OPEC ministers failed to win commitments from five non-member nations to cut their oil production. The non-OPEC nations wanted OPEC to commit itself first to specific cuts in its output, according to several ministers.

The oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, Dr. Mana Said Oteiba, told reporters as he entered a morning session that he saw little chance that a firm agreement on OPEC cutbacks could be completed in Geneva.

Asked whether he expected to return to his capital with an agreement, he said, "we would go home without anything." He declined to elaborate, except to say he hoped the week-long conference would end Saturday.

The 13-member group declared on Friday that Mexico, Malaysia, Egypt, Oman and Angola had pledged to help OPEC try to reverse the recent price collapse.

But officials in several delegations said later that the two groups had been unable to agree on the central element in the price-support strategy: How much production should be cut and by whom.

"There were no specifics agreed to," said Sheikh Said Ibn Ahmad Al Shanfari, the oil minister of Oman.

A source who participated in the talks on the non-OPEC side and who spoke to a reporter on condition of anonymity said the two groups were never even close to an agreement on production cuts.

Analysts and OPEC oil experts generally agree that without major cuts in oil supplies, prices are likely to remain at their current level of about \$15 a barrel, or might even fall further. Three months ago prices were near \$30 a barrel.

At the conclusion of its talks with the five independent producers, OPEC announced that both groups were committed to pushing oil prices back up to \$28 a barrel. That is the official price that OPEC set in January 1985 but was unable to support.

In disclosing the outcome of the talks, OPEC President Arturo Hernandez Grisanti of Venezuela tried to put the best face on a difficult series of negotiations that sources said were sometimes acrimonious.

"We agreed to defend the price structure at \$28 per barrel and to carry out all the necessary measures to gradually reach this level again," he told reporters.

"OPEC will adopt a series of measures that will be made public in due time," he declared.

"I think the important thing is that all oil producing countries — OPEC and non-OPEC — are now committed to regain the stability of the market," he said.

He did not mention that most of the major non-OPEC oil producers — including Britain, Norway, the Soviet Union and the United States — have said they are not willing to help OPEC push prices back up.

The Omani minister told reporters that the five independent producers in the Geneva talks had agreed to OPEC's request that they initiate contacts with more non-OPEC nations in hopes of persuading them to come to the bargaining table with the cartel.

He added that while the 18 countries involved in the talks had agreed on a goal of restoring oil prices to \$28 a barrel, he believed it would be "difficult" to reach even \$20.

"That's their (OPEC's) headache, not mine," he said as he left the Geneva Hotel where the 13 OPEC nations have been deliberating since last Sunday.

Sources involved in the talks said OPEC had requested that the five independent producers — whose production totals about 4.5 million barrels a day — accept a 20 per cent cut. This was rejected as too big a sacrifice, one well-placed source said.

Italy cuts discount rate

ROME (R) — Italy Friday cut its official discount rate by one percentage point, saying favourable prospects for the Italian economy had made the reduction possible. The discount rate — the interest rate at which a central bank discounts government paper or lends money against government collateral — will fall from 15 per cent to 14 per cent from Saturday, the treasury said.

THE Daily Crossword by John Ohlsen

ACROSS

- 1 Skirt type
- 5 Sanctified
- 10 Dry water course
- 14 Cassini
- 15 Hardship
- 16 Aid in crime
- 17 Spare
- 18 Air, ruminant
- 19 Mystic rhyme
- 20 Praised
- 22 Suffering hero
- 24 Matrix
- 26 Isolated
- 28 Contin
- 29 Set off
- 31 Praying figure in art
- 34 Cattle breed
- 35 Tijuana's land, abbr.
- 36 Spirit
- 37 More logical
- 38 A Fonda
- 39 Comp. pl.
- 40 Feet
- 41 Shaving item
- 42 Consecrate
- 44 Sheltered
- 45 Stubborn one
- 46 smile be your...
- 47 Scold
- 50 Was an angel
- 54 Wife in Rome
- 55 Part of speech
- 57 Amerind
- 58 Location
- 59 January in Jerez
- 60 Irrate
- 61 Printing term
- 62 After a bit
- 63 Plicher

DOWN

- 1 Breakwater
- 2 Horn oak
- 3 Shipshape
- 4 Disgrace
- 5 Bamberhoo's kinsman
- 6 Enraged
- 7 Mild oath
- 8 Scribe
- 9 Certain plane
- 10 Hare habitation
- 11 Adjoin
- 12 Gainay
- 13 Roman road
- 21 Attic
- 23 Before long
- 25 Reception
- 26 Lassoed
- 27 Bagin
- 28 Strained
- 29 Obuse
- 30 Surprise
- 31 Drift
- 32 Use energy
- 34 "Inferno" post
- 37 Main tide
- 38 Indonesian
- 40 Leopard tail
- 41 Tribunal in Rome
- 43 Turk. inn
- 44 Suppress
- 46 Cuba
- 47 Kiss
- 48 Leave
- 49 Routine
- 50 Worry
- 51 Boast
- 52 Land of leprochauna
- 53 Hart
- 56 Sp. queen

Puzzle Solved:

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Horoscope not received

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEEBI

DATUC

CHARNB

GLENET

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: BY

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOIC, FUZZY, MIDWAY, GARBLE

Answer: What a man with a "burning" ambition is not apt to get — "FIRED"

Aquino urges Communist rebels to end insurgency

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines (R) — President Corason Aquino on Saturday urged Communist insurgents to lay down their arms and said those who refuse will face an army reinvigorated under her leadership.

Mrs. Aquino Saturday appealed to insurgents to help rebuild the Philippines now that the evil and crooked Ferdinand Marcos had fled the country.

Mrs. Aquino, the first woman commander-in-chief of the armed forces, told Philippine Military Academy graduates Marcos had turned his back on reconciliation and through his "gouges, warlords and cronies" had become the most effective recruiter of the Communist New People's Army (NPA).

"I wish to persuade those insurgents who went to the hills because of despair, rather than ideology, to return because now there is hope," she said.

"You waged war against Mr. Marcos because he was the embodiment of the worst injustice, of

greed and cruelty," she said.

"Now that the evil has fled the land, I shall soon call on you to come out and rejoin your people in rebuilding our country."

Mrs. Aquino, who came to power after a civilian-backed military revolt last month, was given a 21-gun salute, an honour she rejected when she first visited defence headquarters in Manila.

On Saturday, she seemed more reconciled to military pomp and three times during the ceremony stood to attention and saluted as the national anthem was played, each time to loud cheers from a crowd of about 1,500 civilian onlookers.

But unlike Marcos, who wore a military uniform, she wore a skirt and a long-sleeved blouse in yellow, her colour in last month's election

which she said Marcos had stolen from her.

All 700 students at the academy defected to her side at the height of the rebellion when Marcos sent out troops and tanks to two military camps occupied by rebel soldiers. Instead they joined the revolt.

"As Marcos' manoeuvres against the rebellion demonstrated, a crook not only makes a corrupt general but a bad one too," she told the new graduates.

"You had a commander-in-chief who destroyed the very essence of responsible militarism. He was at the centre of corruption and repression," Mrs. Aquino added.

About 260 people have been killed in more than 170 Communist guerrilla attacks in the Philippines since Mrs. Aquino took power last month, military headquarters said Saturday.

A spokesman told the official Philippine News Agency that those killed in raids by the NPA included 200 soldiers, militiamen

and civilians and 60 guerrillas.

Military officials in Butuan City in the south said eight insurgents were killed and six were captured Friday in a battle with government troops in Agusan Del Sur Province.

It was not clear whether they were included among the 60 rebels reported killed by military headquarters in Manila.

Meanwhile the U.S. government was casting about Friday in search of a country willing to accept Ferdinand Marcos after Panama refused to grant asylum to Marcos.

The State Department said it was continuing talks with several countries but refused to name them or to confirm a statement by White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan that Washington was still lobbying Panama.

Guillermo Adames, press secretary to Panamanian President Eric Arturo Del Valle, said Friday the Panamanian government had rejected Marcos' asylum request.

Police puzzled by 2 bullets fired on Palme

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Police remain puzzled by the two bullets fired in the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme as the search for the killer enters its fourth week, a Stockholm newspaper reported Saturday.

The Expressen newspaper quoted unidentified police sources as saying they were confused about why the two bullets fired from a powerful .357 Magnum revolver during the killing were found relatively intact.

Expressen, the city's largest daily, quoted investigators as saying the bullets normally should have been much more flattened or destroyed than they were, and found further away from Mr. Palme's body.

The newspaper said police have drawn no new conclusions from the two bullets, but continued their analysis of them in hopes of finding clues to the gun used in the killing. Expressen added that police remain convinced the bullets were fired at Mr. Palme from a .357 Magnum revolver.

Police, meanwhile, cancelled a daily press conference Saturday. Police spokesmen said they had nothing new to report and no comments to make in the case.

The search for Mr. Palme's killer, the largest manhunt in Swedish history, entered its fourth week with little hope for an immediate solution in sight.

On Friday, Stockholm's police Commissioner acknowledged investigators have made little progress, but defended his department's efforts.

Commissioner Hans Holmer told reporters some 300 detectives are working full time on the hunt for the gunman who killed Mr. Palme on a downtown Stockholm street on Feb. 28.

"We still work 20 hours a day: seven days a week with 300 men as intensely as before, and we can continue doing so indefinitely," Holmer told a news conference.

The commissioner said he was getting an increasing number of complaints about a lack of progress in the search, mostly from Swedish reporters.

"I believe that the work we are doing will eventually yield results," Holmer later told Swedish television Friday.

"We continue to get more tips, more tiny bits to the puzzle," the commissioner said.

"It takes time," he added, "but we will continue for as long as it takes."

Mr. Palme was shot in the back, at close range, with a .357-caliber Magnum revolver by a gunman police later described as a professional killer.

Three weeks after mounting what authorities billed as Sweden's largest manhunt, police have failed to find the murder weapon and have indicated they reached a dead end in their search for the getaway car used by Mr. Palme's killer.

Police arrested a 32-year-old Swedish man in connection with the investigation. But the suspect was released without charges on Wednesday, after being held for a week, when police said a key element in the defence against him had collapsed.

The man remained in hiding for fear of attacks after his identity and picture were printed by a Swedish newspaper on Tuesday, according to Swedish press accounts.

Swedish libel laws dictate that a suspect's identity is not revealed until after he is charged. Neither police nor prosecutors identified the man.

Sweden's National News Agency reported that police believe Mr. Palme's killer was a member of Swedish right-wing extremist circles, and not a foreign group.

Reagan 'will never give up' on aid to Contras

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan insists the House of Representatives rejection of his controversial \$100-million aid package for Nicaraguan rebels was only a "temporary setback" and vows to fight for the aid until it is approved.

"We will never give up," he told rebel leaders and others invited to the White House Friday to plan strategy following the worst foreign policy setback of Mr. Reagan's second term, a 222-210 House vote against the package on Thursday.

Wearing a button which said "If you like Cuba, you'll love Nicaragua" as he began his remarks, the president said: "Unfortunately for America... the cause of freedom and hope and democracy suffered a temporary setback."

He added: "I underline temporary."

Mr. Reagan said Congress faced no more important foreign policy question than his request to give forces fighting Managua's leftist Sandinista government military arms and equipment as well as food, clothing and medicine.

"We intend to bring this back to the House as many times as it takes to win. And we will win," he said.

Summoning rebel leaders Arturo Cruz, Adolfo Calero and Alfonso Robelo to his side as he concluded his remarks, the president stated: "Today I give you my solemn pledge: I will not rest until freedom is given a fighting chance in Nicaragua."

His pledge prompted a shout of

"Viva Reagan" from Robelo, and the cry was picked up by others in the audience.

In a television interview earlier, White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan admitted Mr. Reagan was disappointed by his setback in the House.

"But remember this is only the start of the game," Mr. Regan said.

He predicted the Senate would approve the aid next week and the House would reverse itself and approve it about the middle of next month.

Representative Jim Jones, an Oklahoma Democrat who supported the aid plan, said the administration might have a hard time getting the House to change its mind.

"People have voted and they're locked in," Mr. Jones told Reuters in an interview.

Trouble also appeared to be brewing in the Senate, which was thought to be more receptive to the aid legislation.

Although Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd told reporters Mr. Reagan "will probably get most of what he wants," efforts were under way to fashion a democratic alternative to his plan.

The alternative, whose chief sponsor was Senator James Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, would give the rebels \$30 million in non-lethal aid immediately, but require another affirmative vote of Congress before additional aid could be provided.

Mr. Reagan has firmly opposed such proposals in the past.

Militant Sikhs protest at police shooting of rioters

CHANDIGARH (R) — Militants challenging Punjab's moderate Sikh government blocked roads and closed schools Saturday to protest against the police shooting of demonstrators who stormed the state assembly Friday.

Two Sikhs were killed and 37 wounded when police opened fire at militants who scrambled over barricades and burst through police cordons outside the assembly, police said.

Earlier reports put the number of dead at four. Two of the wounded are in a serious condition. Twelve militants were arrested.

Police and crack paramilitary troops had earlier fired rubber bullets and tear gas but failed to disperse the 6,000-strong crowd, many brandishing traditional Sikh swords.

It was the worst violence ever in the Punjab state capital and represented a direct challenge by the militants to the moderate Sikh government of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala which came to power last September.

The assault followed a week of violence which prompted the Bar-nala government to seek 10,000 central government police reinforcements.

Extra police and paramilitary troops began arriving in the Sikh-majority state on Wednesday.

Police said most roads were open Saturday despite the militants' protest but schools and colleges were closed.

Nearly 200 people have been killed in Punjab since Mr. Barnala took office after signing a peace accord with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Most have died in attacks by extremists seeking an independent Sikh nation, but the violence has spilled over to attacks on minority Hindus.

The militant United Akali Dal Party and Sikh student groups which called the demonstration accuse Mr. Barnala and other moderates of betraying the Sikh cause.

They demanded the release of jailed Sikh militants and the reinstatement of Sikh soldiers who deserted after the Indian army stormed the Sikhs' holiest shrine, Amritsar's Golden Temple, in June 1984 to flush out extremists.

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But eyewitnesses said police and troops used guns to break up any gatherings before the 0100 GMT curfew and that, in a scene reminiscent of the days leading up to Duvalier's fall, a policeman shot a fleeing youngster in the leg.

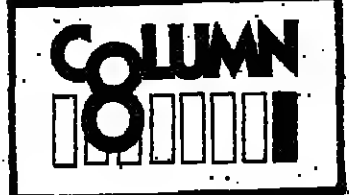
Other witnesses reported seeing police kill at least one man. Flights into the international

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Police to curb wandering hands during festival

NEYW DELHI (R) — The long arm of the law is poised to grab wandering "eve-teasing" hands on Delhi's notorious buses during the next week's free-for-all Holi Holiday. Police said drivers had been told to head direct to the nearest police station if women passengers complain of sexual harassment. They have also set up a hotline for victims. During Holi Indians are free to hurl coloured water over anyone they meet. In recent years the Hindu festival has been regarded in many cities as a general licence to harass women and attack pedestrians and cars with water bombs. This year Holi falls on March 26.

China's road deaths roar 20 per cent

PEKING (R) — Road deaths soared by nearly 20 per cent last year in China because of wanton disregard of traffic rules, the People's Daily said Saturday. The newspaper's overseas edition said 12,042 people were killed in traffic accidents in 1985 and almost 65,000 injured. Vehicle damage cost 65 million yuan (\$20 million), a rise of around 50 per cent. Large numbers of imported motor vehicles, most Japanese, have joined an army of bicycles, buses, horse carts, trucks and trolley-buses on China's roads in the last two years.

Mexican doctor gets new fingers

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A plastic surgeon who lost four fingers when he was trapped in Mexico City's massive earthquake last September was reported in good condition after surgery to transplant two toes onto his hand. Doctors at Ralph K. Davies Medical Centre here said they hoped that the toes would enable Dr. Francisco Bucio, 27, to continue his career. "Everything seems to be fine. All indications are that the transplanted digits are getting good circulation," said Duane Oshimomi, a spokesman for the hospital. "He's got a very outgoing personality and he's very up-tempo, so I think that's really going to benefit his recovery." Dr. Bucio was trapped for three days after the quake levelled the residents' quarters of a hospital in Mexico City. The quake killed more than 7,000 people, including some 20 of Dr. Bucio's colleagues.

Man who burnt himself near White House dies

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — A retired army reserve officer who set himself afire near the White House last month has died, a newspaper reported Saturday. Orland Payne McCafferty, of Lee's Summit, died Friday night at the Francis Scott Key Medical Centre in Baltimore, the Kansas City Times reported Saturday. McCafferty, who had been in critical condition since the Feb. 15 incident, died from severe burns, said Karen Beauregard, the hospital's assistant director of public affairs. McCafferty, who retired from the army reserve in 1979 at the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, apparently went to Washington to express his disappointment with policies concerning social security benefits for servicemen. District of Columbia police said.

Soviet schoolgirl starts peace visit to U.S.

CHICAGO (R) — Soviet Schoolgirl Katerina Lycheva began a 12-day visit to the United States with a talking Teddy Bear, breakfast under the glare of television lights and a plea for world peace. "If everyone who wants peace lit a candle... there would be no dark spots left," the slim, sandy-haired 11-year old said. "The sun would be as bright as all those candles... when they're lit from the very heart." Lycheva made the comment as she lit a candle following breakfast with two dozen primary-school pupils seated at a white-tablecloth "chef's table" in a hotel kitchen here. Her visit, sponsored by the San Francisco-based Children as the Peacemakers Foundation, has been billed as a peace trip in memory of Samantha Smith, the American schoolgirl whose letter to the late Soviet leader Yuri Andropov resulted in her visiting the Soviet Union in 1983. Smith was killed in a plane crash last summer.

Cyclone kills 32 in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO (R) — Cyclone Honorina which ripped across Madagascar earlier this week killed 32 people, made thousands homeless and caused damage estimated at \$150 million, the government reported Saturday.

Interior Minister Ampy Augustus Portos summoned foreign diplomats to brief them on the disaster and appealed for international aid, particularly building materials, food and medicine, envoys said.

The worst hit area appeared to be the country's main Port Toamasina where some 80 per cent of the town was destroyed by the storm which hit the east coast of the Indian Ocean island on Monday.

A main street in the port was washed away and hundreds of makeshift homes of poor workers

were devastated.

The authorities said some 4,500 tonnes of rice stored in warehouses at the port were destroyed by the high seas thrown up by winds of 300 kilometres-per-hour which lashed the coast.

The Solima Oil Refinery near the port was damaged and the government said it was not expected to be operating for three months.

Bulgaria changes premier in government reshuffle

SOFIA (R) — Rising technocrat Gheorgi Atanasov has emerged as Bulgaria's new prime minister in a major government reorganisation aimed at implementing veteran Communist Party leader Todor Zhivkov's radical plans for economic reforms, Western diplomats said.

Mr. Atanasov, 53, who was confirmed in his new post Friday by the country's rubber-stamp parliament, replaces Grista Filipov, 66 who was elevated to the rank of party Central Committee secretary.

The diplomats said Mr. Atanasov has a strong party background and, as a newcomer to the top government ranks, would not have his hands tied when attacking the problems facing Bulgaria's fossilised economy.

In a shake-up spectacular by Eastern Bloc standards, the National Assembly also accepted the abolition of the key economic ministries of energy, chemicals, machine-building, communications, metallurgy and forest products.

The new structure intended to replace these ministries was not made clear when the reorganisation was reported Friday night by the official Bulgarian News Agency SofiaPress.

But Mr. Atanasov's appointment came as a surprise to Sofia-based Western diplomats contacted by Reuters by telephone. They had been closely watching Mr. Ognian Doyinov, 51, another rising younger-generation star, who became a deputy prime minister last month.

They were also surprised by Mr. Filipov's promotion — an indication, they said, that he was still

in the running along with several younger men to succeed Mr. Zhivkov eventually. But they added there was no indication in Friday's changes that Mr. Zhivkov, 74, might step down soon.

Chudomir Alexandrov, 50, who recently became a politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee, is also widely seen as a possible future contender to take over from Mr. Zhivkov.

The party chief is advancing a new generation to top posts to carry through his cherished policies of a "science and technology revolution" and economic reform.

Mr. Atanasov has the right background for the tasks ahead, the diplomats said. For 20 years a Central Committee member, he has been head of the Central Committee's Science and Education Department and has overseen the proper use of resources in the economy, a job linked to cutting inefficiency and corruption.

His age puts him in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's generation, a factor that might help Sofia ease strains that developed over the past year in its economic ties with Moscow.

The new government will have to follow Mr. Zhivkov's plan for economic reform which is expected to be endorsed by a party congress next month.

The reform package will free state enterprises of much central planning red tape, allowing them more freedom to plan ahead, manage, hire and fire and pay workers according to individual productivity. A new labour law, designed to achieve these ends, was adopted by the current session of parliament.

18 injured during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — At least 18 people were seriously injured Saturday when troops and demonstrators fought with petrol bombs, tear gas, sticks and stones during a 12-hour national strike in Bangladesh, police said.

They said the trouble erupted when activists of the leftist Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) attacked a police station near Dhaka University during the strike, called by the opposition in protest at the government's election plans.

Police retaliated with tear gas when demonstrators hurled stones and bombs at them.

The spirit of the strike dampened at the last minute when opposition parties accepted government concessions and called off a boycott of the April 26 polls.

JSD activists described the decision as "betrayal of democracy" and said they would still try to stop the election.

The JSD was a component of a 15-party alliance which said it would contest the election if President Hossain Mohammad Ershad held it in May and carried out changes he offered Friday.

Gen. Ershad, in a national broadcast, offered to move the election date to the first part of May, drop pro-government party ministers from his cabinet, remove military commanders from civilian jobs and ensure the neutrality of the civil administration.

The JSD received unexpected support from the other main opposition alliance, which retracted an announcement this morning that it would take part in the election.

"We will participate in the polls if the president meets some more of our demands," the seven-party alliance said.

It said it wanted all jailed political leaders freed and the repeal of all military court sentences on political leaders over the past four years.

The 15-party alliance, which includes the biggest opposition party, the Awami League, said it would start preparing for the election.

"We have accepted his concessions with reservations. We now want to see how he implements them," a 15-party alliance statement said.

Battle-ready troops meanwhile guarded the streets as a 12-hour national strike called by the opposition brought Dhaka to a standstill.

Opposition leaders said their poll decision came too late to stop the walkout, designed to protest at what they had said would be cheating in favour of the government backed Jatiya Party.

The 15-party alliance criticised Gen. Ershad for what it called "denigratory language" aimed at the opposition in his broadcast announcement Friday night.

Gen. Ershad said some opposition parties were "resorting to terrorism" to disrupt the poll, citing offices ransacked by activists, burnt government cars and man-handled officials.

S. African campaigners score court victory

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The supreme court handed anti-apartheid campaigners a victory Saturday by annulling government restrictions imposed on a prominent black activist.

The court in Port Elizabeth accepted the argument that the "banning" order on Mkhutsele Jack was invalid because Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange had failed to state his reasons.

Jubilant friends and supporters crowded Jack's home to congratulate the delighted 28-year-old activist, and legal experts speculated that the ruling could affect other banning orders in force.

On the other hand, the experts noted, the government could re-impose the restrictions if it stated its reasons.

Jack and another Port Elizabeth activist, Henry Fazzie, got orders on March 11 restricting them to their homes from dusk to dawn and on weekends, and forbidding them to leave the Port Elizabeth area, attend political meetings or be quoted in the media.

The measure provoked outrage among white business leaders in the south coast city who said they were involved in delicate negotiations with the two men to prevent a crippling black consumer boycott being resumed.

Washington also expressed concern.

Businessmen and newspaper editorialists said the banning orders were inexplicable, especially at such a critical juncture in the black consumer war, and indeed the order served on Jack said only that he "promotes activities which endanger the maintenance of law and order."

In his appeal, Jack argued that this was "improper exercise of the discretion vested in the minister who had also failed to give reasons why the disclosure of the information that had led him to his conclusions would be detrimental to the public interest."

Jack is president of the Port Elizabeth Youth Congress, a black group affiliated to the multi-racial United Democratic Front coalition.

Banning, a key weapon in the government's arsenal of measures for silencing black and white anti-apartheid foes, is much less widely used than in the past.

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Film shows shuttle booster leak

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. space agency experts ran a movie for the Challenger investigating commission showing, in frames a few thousandths of a second apart, the flame from a booster rocket leak triggering the explosion that cost seven lives.

One NASA official said "busy winds" buffeting the shuttle high over Florida may have helped cause the flame leak, by reopening a booster rocket seal which apparently was damaged on launch but had since closed. The experts said the flame forged a hole in the booster rocket.

"We've looked at the heating that would result from that type of flame coming out," said Wayne Little, after the 14.5 minute, computer-enhanced film showed flame from the booster shooting for about seven seconds toward a tank containing volatile liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen fuel.

"There's more than sufficient heat during that time to burn a hole through the tank," said Little,

burning hole in fuel tank

les, associate director for engineering at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

"You could burn a hole in that tank in a couple of seconds."

Challenger exploded during the 74th second of its flight after launch from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Jan. 28. Those killed included schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

The films and still pictures shown the presidential commission came from 14 cameras routinely trained at the shuttle from liftoff until it nears orbit. Little and other experts from Huntsville provided the commission a new, more detailed timeline of events from ignition to explosion, 14 kilometres high and 13 kilometres downrange from the launch pad.

Like all Friday's witnesses, Little testified that tests and analysis during the last two weeks have ruled out all potential causes other than a failed seam in the AFT port

tion of the right solid booster rocket.

A commission source said that the panel intends to recommend that the joint be redesigned, even if the exact way in which it failed cannot be pinpointed. NASA officials have said the shuttle will not fly again until joint problems are remedied.

After a review of the three-year history of problems with the joint, Commission Chairman William F. Rogers noted that "some of the people who made the decision to launch (Challenger) said they were not familiar with the problem."

Little responded: "I do know those problems have been reviewed in flight readiness reviews" attended by launch decision-makers. "I can't imagine it was not known."

Dan Germany, head of NASA's Accident Photo Analysis Team, said in answer to a question by commission member Albert Wheelon that cold weather on launch

morning caused the failure of 11 other cameras. Among the failed cameras were two which Germany conceded "would have provided an excellent view of the area in question."

Marshall engineer Harold Scofield testified that the shuttle encountered "a busy wind" that shook it unusually hard between 40 and 60 seconds through its flight.

"We don't think this would open a gap in a healthy solid rocket motor seal," Scofield said. These rubber-like O-ring seals in the suspect booster rocket joint are the focus of the remaining theories of the accident's cause.

One theory holds the seals were somehow damaged at launch, because gray smoke was seen coming from the suspect seam on the right booster rocket in the first second of ignition. Engineers believe that this flaw grew into the much larger leak that